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THE MIND

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is indigo
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SPECIAL

We will be on target, says minister

Inflation hits highest level for two years

BY JILL SHERMAN, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

GORDON BROWN'S determination to keep a tight grip on the economy was dealt a severe blow yesterday as inflation rose to 3.3 per cent, the highest level for nearly two years.

A high street spending spree, higher mortgage costs and a rise in petrol prices contributed to the sharp increase in the headline rate from 2.9 per cent, bursting through the Chancellor's target for the second month running.

The underlying rate, the Government's preferred measure which excludes mortgage interest payments, also rose above City forecasts, up from 2.7 per cent to 3 per cent.

The figures immediately raised speculation that the Bank of England might again come under pressure to raise interest rates, although ministers argued that they did not think this would be necessary. The bank is due to publish its半年 inflation report to

day in the wake of four interest rate rises since the general election.

Geoffrey Robinson, the Paymaster General, played down the figures, insisting that inflation would return to its target figure of 2.5 per cent within two months and without the need for a further interest rate rise.

The Bank's statement on August 7 said the perception is that interest rates have reached a level consistent with the inflation target, he said. "I hope very much that will be their view tomorrow."

But the Tories seized on the figures, claiming that they were the direct result of Mr Brown's "boomerang Budget."

Michael Fallon, the industry spokesman, said: "Labour's decision to jack up taxes - starting with a higher-than-expected rise in petrol duty - has fed straight through into higher prices."

No wonder the Bank of England raised interest rates

again last week. They knew that Gordon Brown's budget had injected extra inflationary pressure into the system."

Economic analysts said the rise should not have a big influence on interest rates, after the Bank's statement last week that the current levels were consistent with the inflation target.

The City also tried to play down the hike because most of the changes were due to seasonal food prices and the petrol price which rose by about 2.5p a litre in July in response to the increase in duty announced by Mr Brown.

But the inflation figures from the Office of National Statistics (ONS) were combined with separate data showing that high street sales were growing at their fastest rate for nine months. The value of retail sales jumped from 4.5 per cent in June to 5.2 per cent last month.

The ONS figures showed that motoring costs have risen by 1 per cent in a month compared with a 0.1 per cent rise last July, feeding through to a 6.4 per cent annual rise.

A 1.1 per cent rise in the mortgage interest element of the data, on the back of lending rate increases after the base rate hikes, helped drive up housing inflation by 1.1 per cent in the month, compared with 0.4 per cent last July.

In a new development a jury cleared a man yesterday of shooting a gangster in Paisley last year after the defence claimed that the real killers included Billy Gillespie, a leading figure in FCB Security.

McMaster, 37, left a suicide note which blamed senior party colleagues for conducting a whispering campaign alleging he was a homosexual suffering from HIV.

Support was rapidly ebbing away last night for Tommy Graham, the Labour MP named in the suicide note, who is facing possible disciplinary action after an outburst in a Glasgow newspaper in which he described the late McMaster as a "drunkard" who was "ill with the booze".

Petrol tax, page 25

Labour's Scottish crisis deepens

BY DOMINIC KENNEDY AND ANDREW PILICE

THE Labour Party's problems over sleaze deepened last night after backbenchers demanded a widening of the investigation into the suicide of Gordon McMaster after two dramatic new twists.

The police have handed a report to the Procurator Fiscal, after a two-year investigation into FCB Security, a Paisley-based company. The company, which had a contract with the local Labour council and two Labour councillors on its board, was accused by McMaster of being involved in laundering drug money.

The body of McMaster was found in his sun-bleached car two weeks ago. He had reportedly been drunk and was receiving police protection after campaigning against the

security company and its alleged links with Labour councillors.

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Petrol tax, page 25

Cricket anger

Angry scenes in which players pushed each other and exchanged heated words marred the end of cricket's NatWest Trophy semi-final last night..... Page 44

Gulf campaigner dies at 30

BY DAMIAN WHITWORTH

ONE of the leading campaigners for government action on Gulf War syndrome died yesterday after years of sickness. The death of Paul Carr prompted calls from fellow veterans of the war for the Government to speed its promised action to tackle the mysterious illness.

Mr Carr, 40, served with the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers during Operation Desert Storm as an anti-tank vehicle driver. Investigating the remains of bombed Iraqi tanks.

Even as he grew increasingly ill with a brain tumour, he has blamed his illness on the injections he received for Gulf War deployment, including vaccines against plague and anthrax, as well as NAPS tablets to

protect against possible chemical attack. He also came into close contact with the remains of Iraqi tanks that had been destroyed by shells tipped with depleted uranium.

Before he died he said that he believed that he had passed his sickness to his children. "As I see it, I have passed to the children what I picked up through the chemicals in the Gulf. I fought for my country, but I did not expect to be poisoned."

He added: "When Tanya was born with this defect I was sad, of course, but I did not make any connection with the Gulf. But when Adele had the

Continued on page 2, col 4

Jumbo stowaway wins second chance

BY STEPHEN FARRELL

AN INDIAN stowaway who was refused asylum after surviving 40C temperatures hidden inside the undercarriage of a jumbo jet was last night told his case would be

reopened.

Mr Saini applied for asylum, claiming he had suffered persecution by Indian police who accused him of links with Sikh terrorists in his native Punjab. His lawyers told an immigration appeal hearing in June that he had been arrested twice and beaten. However, his family learned yesterday that his application had been rejected.

Doctors described Mr Saini, 23, as a "medical miracle" and believe he survived by going

Page 12 tomorrow

By PAUL WILKINSON

THE pilot of a motorised glider had the cap knocked from his head by a helicopter rotor blade as they collided in mid-air yesterday.

Martin Hopfmuller, a retired Austrian music professor, escaped with a cut hand as he and the two-man helicopter crew made emergency landings after the accident in North Yorkshire. Later Mr Hopfmuller, 65, declined a lift to hospital in an RAF rescue helicopter, claiming he preferred the safety of an ambulance.

Mr Hopfmuller had been piloting his Catana DV 20 aircraft from Leeds to Rufford Airfield on the outskirts of York. As he approached the landing strip he collided with a Twin Squirrel helicopter on a flight from Pocklington, in East Yorkshire, to Teesside. He said: "It was more than just a miracle escape. I was saved by my cloth cap. I was given clearance to land by York and started my descent. Suddenly I saw the helicopter above me in the right and two seconds later it hit me with a terrific strike.

"The rotor blade cracked me on the perspex shield attached to my cloth cap which I always wear to fly in. The cap was knocked clean off. If I hadn't been wearing it I fear my head would have been cut clean off. I was saved."

Although his right hand was bleeding he kept control of the glider and landed in a field. The helicopter pilot, Philip Amadeus, and his co-pilot, Paul Moran, crashedlanded in a corn field near by.

□ Pilot killed: The pilot of a microlight aircraft was killed as he took off from Netherthorpe Aerodrome near Worksop. He was a member of Shefford Aero Club.

Cap's away for pilot hit by helicopter

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Lawyers attack police bugging code

A DRAFT code of conduct allowing police to break in to homes and bug suspects was published by the Home Office yesterday. It was immediately attacked by lawyers as a licence to spy on confidential meetings.

Earlier this year the Conservative Government passed the Police Act 1997, which legalised the use of police bugs and vehicle tracking devices to collect intelligence on those suspected of involvement in serious crimes.

Under the draft code, intrusive surveillance operations must be

authorised by a chief constable or his deputy and reported to a group of commissioners who will be current or former high court judges. Police will require agreement from a commissioner if they want to bug a home, hotel bedroom or office. They will also need agreement if the operation would involve access to confidential legal, journalistic or personal material, including medical and spiritual counselling. The code includes an

undertaking from the police and Customs that they will not bug the confessional.

If the investigation is urgent police can go ahead, but must report and justify their action to a commissioner as soon as possible. The commissioner can order the police to abandon an operation.

Alun Michael, the Home Office Minister responsible for the police, said he expected that up to seven commissioners would be appointed, including a chief commissioner.

ed, including a chief commissioner. He would act as arbiter between police and commissioners and present a report to Parliament each year.

Last year chief constables and Customs officers carried out 2,550 secret operations involving bugs and tracking devices under ad hoc Home Office arrangements.

Mr Michael said: "The public needs to be protected from the nasty and dangerous people in

volved in high-level crime. But it is essential that police and Customs' powers are subject to effective safeguards and independent scrutiny. We must ensure people's liberties are protected."

But the Law Society announced it would fight for changes in the code. Roger Ede, the secretary of the society's criminal law committee, said it had been hoped the code would clear up deficiencies in the Act but it had not. The police could

bug lawyer's offices without showing any reasonable suspicion that the conversations involved criminal matters. Police were being given carte blanche to break the lawyer's privileged position. There was no mention of any disciplinary action against police who breached the Act.

The Liberal Democrats also maintained that the safeguards do not go far enough. Lord Rodgers of Quarry Bank, the party's home

affairs spokesman, said that bugging should be used as a last resort and where judicial authorisation had already been given.

Last night the Home Office said that a failure by a chief constable to comply with the criteria set out in the code was not a disciplinary matter. A commissioner would halt the intercept. Unauthorised bugging by junior officers would be subject to normal discipline.

Comments on the code must be received by the Home Office by September 30. The final draft must be approved by Parliament.

Railway cameras put more crooks in the frame

By LIN JENKINS

SURVEILLANCE around London's rail network completes a major refit this month, greatly improving the images recorded by cameras and making it easier to identify criminals from freeze-frames, even when lighting conditions are poor.

The network is the largest in Europe, with 1,800 cameras covering stations, approach roads, parking areas, platforms, ticket offices and shopping areas. New software enables images to be enhanced to sharpen the details.

The system had its inception in 1991 in response to the IRA bombing campaign in London, and was completed four years later. Sergeant David Cooper of the British Transport Police video unit said that new equipment would also allow officers to gather relevant recordings from a number of locations on one tape, without endless copying and editing.

"Within an hour of an incident being reported, we will have identified all the relevant tapes and be ready to start work," he said. "The system is designed so that if any point of the network should be damaged, this would not result in a loss of images to us. It would be extremely difficult to knock out the system."

Footage from the system has played a key role in the convictions of a number of criminals. Two brothers jailed for ten years at the Old Bailey last month for a "steaming" incident on a train to Deptford had been tracked through the system.

The London Underground also has a comprehensive camera system. A spokesman for British Transport police said: "We do not stand still. The system is under constant review and we update it whenever technology provides something to enhance our surveillance."



The three Princes face the media on a pebbled beach by the Dee. A further Balmoral photo-call has been promised

Balmoral photo-call for Princes

Continued from page 1
the country by media intrusion.

Officials said that the event had been arranged last Thursday, before the pictures of Dodi and Dodi appeared. "It is something we have been looking at for some time, to see how we could work with the press to meet their needs and allow the children to have a private holiday with their father. It is an experiment. If this does not work, it will never happen again," Ms Henney said.

It appeared, however, to work. By the time the Princes emerged from the woods, just after 10am, accompanied by Prince William's black Labrador, Wigeon, while his father leaned on his crook attempting to look as though he was out for a normal stroll.

Wigeon was the first to appear, unselfconsciously sniffing among the pebbles. But as soon as she noticed the assembled media, she did an about-turn. There was no such retreat for the Prince of Wales in his kilt of Balmoral tartan as he strode out of the wood and on to the beach with a shepherd's crook, followed by his two sons.

At first both William and Harry, both in casual trousers and shirtsleeves, seemed disconcertingly fascinated by their feet as they gingerly picked their way over the pebbles and rocks to the



The royal newlyweds in 1981 — 15 miles upstream

shoreline. The small party exchanged only a few words and walked apart during the five-minute session. Harry skimmed a pebble over the water and occasionally ven-

tured a smile at the cameras. But William, taking after his mother in her early days of fame, studiously ignored all pleas to look up. Instead he threw stones into the water for Wigeon, while his father leaned on his crook attempting to look as though he was out for a normal stroll.

Wigeon was the one who finally broke the ice. All three Princes broke out in smiles as she splashed like a puppy at the shoreline vainly searching for a pebble thrown by her master.

The trio then stood rather stiffly in a line, smiling, before turning back to the wood and, they hoped, their private holiday. It was only then that William finally responded to a photographer's plea and glanced up through his eyelashes with a shy smile — the very image of his mother.

Afterwards the Prince's press secretary looked pleased. No one had shouted questions about Dodi, or about Camilla. The ladies and gentlemen of the press had behaved. But it may not last. Ian Lundy of the local North Scot press agency said yesterday: "If a story breaks about Diana or Camilla, there is no way we can ignore the fact that Charles is at Balmoral."

Mr Hempleman-Adams and Mr Gjeldnes cleared a 200-metre landing strip on ice that was in constant danger of breaking up, so that a plane could land to rescue Alan Bywaters, who was suffering from hypothermia and frostbite.

The society's citation says

Mr Bywaters had fallen through ice and had lost his survival equipment, radio, food, stove and fuel. He managed to get out of the sea and followed the tracks of the Hempleman-Adams team, who were trying to reach the North Pole without support, until he reached them.

After giving first aid Mr Hempleman-Adams and Mr Gjeldnes erected radio antennae to call for assistance. Then they cleared and marked a landing strip, guided the plane in and manhandled Mr Bywaters aboard in a sledge.

Because of the strain the incident put on them and their equipment and food supplies,

Mr Hempleman-Adams and Mr Gjeldnes then had to abandon their own expedition.

Legion attacks Labour for war pensions volte-face

By POLLY NEWTON, POLITICAL REPORTER

LABOUR was accused by the Royal British Legion yesterday of breaking a pre-election pledge to war pensioners. The legion said the party had promised that a Labour Government would review the system that allows local authorities to "penalise" veterans because of their war pension income.

Councils are legally obliged to disregard war pension income of at least £10 a week — but they can choose to ignore the entire amount — when assessing entitlement to hous-

ing benefit and help with council tax bills. This discrepancy leaves pensioners in some areas significantly worse off than others. Fourteen councils, most of them Labour-controlled, disregard only the minimum £10, and a further 30 disregard less than the full amount.

In 1995, Eric Murtle, then Labour defence spokesman, said: "An incoming Labour Government would review this policy of disregard." However, the Department of Social Security now says there are no

Gulf campaigner dies at 30

Continued from page 1
same condition I began to think that there was something going on."

Both daughters underwent operations, but will develop breathing problems in later life. As there was no history of heart problems in the family, doctors said it was extremely unusual for both girls to be born with the same problem.

Tony Flint, the association's regional organiser, said fellow ex-servicemen were devastated by Mr Carr's death. "Paul's death underlines the need for very urgent action. We are dying off at the rate of two a month. This Government is giving us more talk than the previous one, but still there is no action." The association be-

last month that it wanted a "new beginning" on the subject and promised £6.5 million to fund research.

Hilary Meredith, a Manchester-based solicitor acting for veterans, said that Mr Carr's death had hit his colleagues hard. "He was a very big voice in the association and spoke extensively to raise the public image of the case," she said.

"He is the twenty-seventh client to die since we started acting on this case and it has to stop now. The Government has to take this extremely seriously. Never mind all the investigations: just find some treatment fast before any more of our clients go the same way."

lives that there have been more than 100 deaths from Gulf War illness and thousands have suffered symptoms. The Government said

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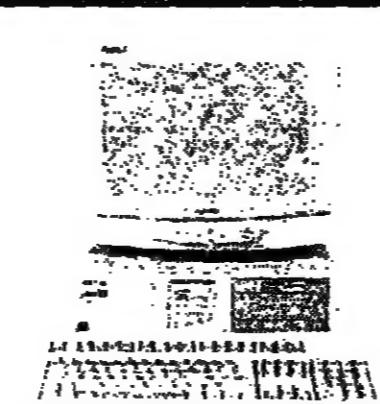
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Grammar tests too tough for teachers

By DAVID CHARTER

COMPULSORY English grammar tests for 14-year-olds have been cancelled next year after teachers said they did not know how to teach sentence construction.

This summer's trial of the 50-minute exam, planned for all schools next year, was taken up by only a quarter of secondaries. Protests from many English teachers about the difficulty of teaching subordinate clauses and adverbial phrases has convinced the Government to excuse most schools, although 100 will be chosen to try out a modified paper.

A spokeswoman for the School Curriculum and Assessment Authority said yesterday: "We are extending the pilot tests for another year in grammar, spelling and punctuation, to fine-tune them based on feedback from teachers."

Top professions prefer 'Ivy League' graduates

Students told to study universities' job prospects, reports David Charter

AN IVY League of traditional universities is favoured by high-earning professions seeking to recruit the brightest graduates, according to a survey of employers. Oxford, Cambridge and Bristol Universities provide most recruits for firms of solicitors, barristers, merchant bankers, accountants and actuaries.

The findings come as it emerged that none of the top three universities have places left for October in clearing, the annual scramble by candidates who miss their target grades for vacant courses, which begins tomorrow once the A-level results come out. There will be some places available at the next most successful universities identified by professional companies: Durham, Manchester, King's College London, Birmingham and Nottingham.

The survey, by the MPW group of independent sixth-form colleges, is a warning to thousands of students expected to join clearing to escape the Government's introduction of annual £1,000 university course fees next year. Joe Ruston, of MPW, said: "There are signals this year that you should try to save the cost of course fees by going to any university, but if it does not confer much in the way of job prospects, it is going to look like a false saving in the long run. I do not think the hysterical comments about rushing into university this year are very sophisticated. We are talking about people's income over a long period." Research into universities' gra-

duate employment prospects will pay dividends, he said.

Several former polytechnics made their mark in the survey, led by the University of the West of England, at 39th with 12 graduates at the top firms. London Guildhall, Oxford Brookes and Anglia Polytechnic University shared 47th place ahead of some traditional universities with eight recruits apiece.

The findings confirm the conclusion of *Great Expectations*, an analysis of the experiences and expectations of

more than 5,000 final year students at 21 institutions published earlier this year. It found that the growing number of graduates seemed to be convincing employers to concentrate on a narrower, not wider, range of institutions.

Many school-leavers are

ignorant of the financial demands that will be made on them at university, a NatWest Bank survey showed yesterday. They are also becoming increasingly tolerant about the prospect of being in debt, with half of those surveyed agreeing that debt is just part of student lifestyle.

The survey of pupils from 50 secondary schools showed that 61 per cent of sixth-formers believed they would not have to borrow money at university, although at least 74 per cent of undergraduates are in debt.

Daily listings of degree-course vacancies start in The Times tomorrow with a comprehensive 16-page guide to clearing.

WHERE FIRMS FIND TALENT

Graduates recruited in the past three years by leading firms of solicitors, barristers, merchant bankers, accountants and actuaries

Oxford	78	Warwick	48
Cambridge	75	Leeds	46
Bristol	55	Southampton	46
Durham	54	Edinburgh	42
Manchester	54	Sheffield	40
King's College	53	UCL	38
Birmingham	50	Cardiff	33
Nottingham	50	York	32
Exeter	49	City	30
LSE	49	Newcastle	30



Kevin Art and his girlfriend Erin Riley after the extradition hearing yesterday

America sends back Maze trio

A JUDGE in San Francisco yesterday ruled that three men who had escaped from a prison in Northern Ireland would not be punished for their political views if returned to British custody and ordered them to be extradited to Britain. Kevin Art, Pol

Brennan and Terence Kirby, all alleged members of the IRA who escaped from a prison in Northern Ireland in 1993, were arrested in California between 1992 and 1994. Art and Kirby were convicted of murder, and Brennan on explosives charges. In his writ-

ten ruling, District Judge Charles Legge said: "Respondents were convicted because they committed serious crimes, not because they are Catholics or Nationalists. A killing is still a crime, regardless of the banner under which the criminal stands."

Trinity students lobby for return of Home Rule

By AUDREY MAGEE, IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

AS SINN FEIN prepares for political battle in pursuit of its goal of a united Ireland, a group of Roman Catholic students in the Irish Republic are struggling for reunification with Britain and a return to Home Rule.

During freshers' week the Independent Unionist Association at Trinity College Dublin will erect a stand calling on people to join their cause. David Christopher, 19, a history student, has founded the movement of Irish people — most of them Catholic — who would prefer to be British. "I do not subscribe to the concept that Irishness and Britishness are mutually exclusive," he said. "I would think that they are mutually inclusive as we share the same language, history and culture. We are a natural political unit."

The association, which has ten members, wants an end to what it sees as the failed Irish State, born in 1922 out of a nationalist struggle to force Britain from Ireland. Mr Christopher, who comes from a non-Unionist background in Galway, refers to Britain as the "mainland" — a term that is anathema to most Irish Catholics. He said that he had more in common with Britain as he watched English tele-

vision and read English papers and was proud to be called a "West Brit".

While reunification with Britain is a long-term goal, his organisation wants Ireland to return to the Commonwealth, British passports for any Irish citizens who want them, and the deletion of Articles 2 and 3 of the Irish Constitution laying claim to Northern Ireland.

The Irish national anthem should also be scrapped because it is, the association claims, offensive to most Irish people.

The association has been growing for the past year under the guidance of Derek Simpson, 40, a Protestant micro-electronics researcher at the university. "Breaking the link with Britain was a mistake," he said. "Republicanism and nationalism has done more to divide people than any bombing campaign and I would also fault the Catholic Church and the Protestant brothers for all the untruths that they have pumped out over the years about Unionism."

The association has made contact with David Trimble's Ulster Unionist Party, Ian Paisley's Democratic Unionist Party, the Orange Order and the Apprentice Boys.

Masked saboteurs attack American grouse shooters

By ROBIN YOUNG AND MICHAEL HORNBY

SABOTEURS yesterday attacked a party of Americans on the opening day of the grouse-shooting season.

The saboteurs were said to have confronted the group after a day's shooting at Gilmonby Moor, two miles south of Bowes, in Co Durham. Some of the gang, armed with sticks and wearing balaclavas and ski masks, attacked the guns and left at least six people needing first aid. Up to 70 police officers were sent to the moor.

The British Field Sports Society said last night: "A party of elderly American gentlemen were attacked, though mercifully none of them seriously. Once again, it is a case of serious and wanton violence from the saboteurs."

"One of the gentlemen in the shooting party received a black eye while others were distressed and shaken. They came to enjoy a week's shooting in a very beautiful part of England and ended up being attacked like this. It was an appalling incident."

Durham police said: "Officers on the moor say no shooting was taking place when the two sides clashed. Police are also investigating claims that cameras and camera bags were stolen during the flare-up."

The first day of the season in England got off to a



Grouse is already on London hotel menus

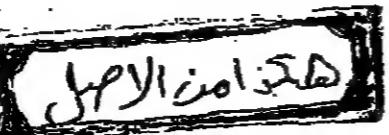
slow start, with many sportsmen electing to wait a week or two before reaching for their guns. In Scotland, there was more activity, with many small family shoots getting under way, although cold and wet weather in May and June had affected the migration of many young birds in southern Scotland.

The first birds were on offer at the Savoy and Connaught hotels for dinner last night, but with August 12 falling in the midst of an oppressive heatwave, many other establishments had decided to go without suppers.

With the weather like this, and anyone who can afford them, already sunning themselves on a yacht in the South of France, what is the point?" asked Nick Lauden of Chez Nico at Ninety Park Lane. "Eating them without hanging means they are simply stringy and flavourless."

BBC education programmes now reach more people after school.
IN ONE CASE, 35 YEARS AFTER SCHOOL.

AP/WideWorld



Computer tax program gets its figures wrong

Software confused pounds and pence and missed out allowances, reports Mark Henderson

ACCOUNTANTS and the Inland Revenue are warning taxpayers to be wary of using computer software to calculate their self-assessment tax returns, after 50,000 users were told that they may have submitted incorrect forms because of programming errors.

Intuit, one of the world's leading publishers of personal tax software, said that users of its QuickTax 97 product could have overpaid or underpaid their bills because of problems with the program. The company said that it would pay any fines incurred by customers, and would consider paying interest where customers had overpaid.

The Inland Revenue said yesterday that taxpayers should be cautious about relying on software to fill in their tax returns, which have to be submitted by the end of January if taxpayers are calculating how much they owe.

The deadline is September 30 for those who want the Inland Revenue to work out the amount due. "People must use their judgment properly and remember that ultimately they are responsible for checking information is correct," a spokesman said. "We do not recommend that people lean too heavily on a computer aid."

Elspeth May, a tax partner with the accountants KPMG, said she would advise taxpayers against using computer software to complete their forms. "We are even having problems with our professional software, because it is the first year of self-assessment," she said.

"I think it is probably too much to ask of taxpayers to do a self-assessment form for the first time, and to use a computer package at the same time. There is a place for the computer systems, but people would normally be

better off spending the money on an accountant or chartered tax adviser."

She said that chartered accountants and chartered tax advisers were bound by a professional code, which offered taxpayers some protection if errors were made in their returns. Taxpayers face fines of £100 for forms that are returned late or completed incorrectly.

The Inland Revenue sent out more than eight million self-assessment forms in April, and has already received 2.5 million returns. About half the forms so far submitted have been filled in incorrectly, and about 10 per cent have had to be returned to taxpayers for further information.

Tony Macklin, marketing manager of Intuit UK, said the software had missed out some allowances and confused pounds with pence. "There are testing problems, but we are standing by our product and will do all

we can to help customers with it," he said. "Penalties are unlikely because customers are more likely to have overpaid, but if there are any we will pay them."

He said it was hard to estimate the numbers affected because QuickTax 97 is available only with the firm's Quicken personal finance package, and that not all the 50,000 Quicken users in Britain would have used it to fill in their tax returns. Users will be sent replacement software before September 30, the first deadline for returns to be submitted. Intuit also markets tax software in the United States, Germany, Australia and Canada, which all have self-assessment tax systems.

Intuit UK has opened a freephone helpline for customers concerned about tax returns compiled with QuickTax 97. It is 0800 731 1958.



Crab gathering catches scientist by surprise

By NICK NUTTALL, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

A SCIENTIST who stumbled on a vast gathering of crabs, covering the size of a tennis court and ten animals deep, may have unravelled the mystery of why the crustaceans hold mass meetings.

Ken Collins, a marine scientist at Southampton University, spotted the enormous mound of spiny spider crabs while diving off Burton Bradstock, near Bridport, Dorset. "I have been diving for 25 years and in all that time I have never seen aggregations anywhere near this size," he said yesterday.

"Although there is documentation that spiny crabs come together in this way periodically, no one yet fully knows why or can predict where and when these mass meetings take place."

Dr Collins, of the university's department of oceanology, estimates that he saw 50,000 crabs weighing about 10 tonnes. Spiny spider crabs, which can grow to the size of a human hand, are common in Britain. They are exported to the Continent where they are prized for their sweet meat.

Some scientists believe the mass meetings bring males and females together for mating. But Dr Collins said: "Let's face it, you do not need to get together with thousands of others to mate."

He believes the gatherings provide security in numbers

at a vulnerable period in the crabs' lives. "Unlike creatures with an internal skeleton, crustaceans have a hard exoskeleton which they must shed each time they grow. Underneath their shells, crabs are soft and therefore extremely vulnerable to predation in the hours between moulting an old, tight shell and the new shell hardening," Dr Collins said.

Most lobsters and crabs crawl into a hole to develop their new shells out of sight of predators. The spiny spider crab's behaviour gives small, young crabs protection beneath older, tougher adults.

"I have dived all over the world, from the Caribbean to the Great Barrier Reef, yet this is the most amazing sight I have ever seen and right on my doorstep," Dr Collins said.

He asked divers and beach-combers to alert him about similar sightings and also discoveries of large numbers of crab shells on the shore.

A golden haddock has been landed off the Scilly Isles. The 4lb haddock stood out like a goldfish among a catch of its grey peers. David Stevens, a trawler skipper, said it is now in Ministry of Agriculture freezer awaiting examination. Sijja Swaby, of the National Marine Aquarium in Plymouth, said: "The melanin pigment is absent, so it's really an albino."

Some of the 50,000 spiny spider crabs, four metres down in waters off Dorset

Girl trapped in lake car dies

By PAUL WILKINSON

THE seven-year-old girl who was trapped in a water-filled car for 40 minutes has died. Cherrie Greenwood survived for four days. She was pulled from a lake by firemen, who used their breathing apparatus as aqua-lungs and weighted themselves with rocks to reach the car.

Andrew Jakeman, the firefighter from Selby, North Yorkshire, who pulled her clear, said yesterday: "My heart goes out to the family. I am devastated Cherrie did not make it."

Cherrie's mother, Stephany, 22, and stepfather, Roy Olbison, 22, were at her bedside when she died on Monday night at Leeds General Infirmary. Cherrie was trapped when the family's VW Golf accidentally rolled backwards on Friday into the 20ft deep disused quarry near Pontefract, Yorkshire, known locally as the Blue Lagoon.

Her mother escaped through an open window.

The parents, from Lower Ackworth, near Pontefract, who have an 18-month-old son, Joseph, were too distressed to talk. Mr Olbison's stepmother, Pat, said: "They never left her side and talked to her all the time. It's such a tragedy. Cherrie was very noisy and lively. She was a lovely girl."

Wayne Hamer, accident and emergency consultant at the infirmary, said young children had been known to recover after spending more than an hour under water. "When water hits the face it triggers a diving reflex, and combined with the cold water, the heart slows, very, very rapidly. But the heart is still beating and the child drifts into unconsciousness as the metabolic rate drops... That is why we continue prolonged resuscitation techniques."

The incident happened on

Thirsty signalman closes line to have a cup of tea

By PAUL WILKINSON

A THIRSTY signalman abandoned his box and went home for a cup of tea, leaving two trainloads of passengers stranded in 80C temperatures without any refreshments of their own.

More than 60 travellers were trapped after the parched Railtrack worker locked his signals in the line-closed position and knocked off early from his box in the Yorkshire Dales. More people had to wait at stations along the line.

The passengers' plight was intensified by the knowledge that the usual buffet trolleys packed with iced drinks were not on board because the caterers had failed to turn up. It was more than an hour before things began moving, when the next shift was persuaded to clock on early at the Blea Moor signal box, near Ribblehead, North Yorkshire.

The incident happened on

Monday when the railway worker found he was without water at the start of his eight-hour shift at 6am. His box between Ribblehead and Dent stations has no piped supply, and a regular delivery of two flagons on an empty train from Skipton failed to arrive.

As the temperatures rose the dry-mouthed signalman became more and more desperate. At 10.50am he could not move. He locked the old-style semaphore signals in the down position so trains could not pass and left, walking a mile across the open moor to where his car was parked. He then drove ten miles home for a brew.

His action halted the 9.47am Leeds to Carlisle train for an hour and 15 minutes in sight of waiting passengers at Settle station. It also stopped the 10.47am service farther down the line. When the second signalman came on

duty both trains were combined at 12.05pm.

The worker, who has not been identified, was being questioned by senior Railtrack managers yesterday. Bill Heard, a spokesman for Regional Railways North East, which runs the train service, said: "Scores of passengers were affected. We also had a problem because European Catering Service, for some reason, did not turn up for the trains. That is a matter we are investigating. We want to know exactly why this man shut down the box and consequently shut down the line. We can only apologise."

One passenger, Steven Briggs, of Sunderland, said: "It was boiling on that train and we were all thirsty. The signalman had a job to do and it is no good just walking out and leaving us stuck in the middle of nowhere, even if he does want a cup of tea."

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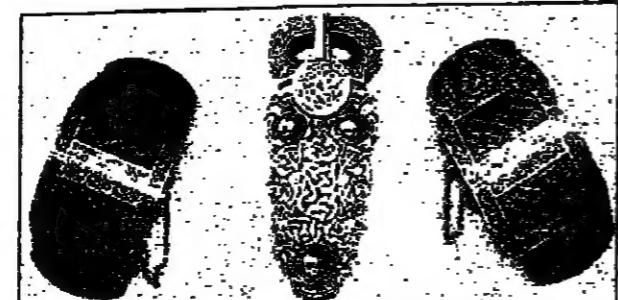
Lottery to bring Saxon burial site to life

By MICHAEL HORNBY

A GRANT of £3.6 million has been awarded by the Heritage Lottery Fund to improve public access to one of Britain's most important archaeological treasures, the 7th-century burial ground of Saxon chieftains at Sutton Hoo in Suffolk.

The National Trust, which was offered the 232-acre Sutton Hoo Estate as a gift two years ago, said yesterday that the aim was to attract 50,000 visitors a year to the site on the River Deben, near Woodbridge.

A further £1.06 million will come from bequests to the trust and from donations by



Gold clasps and a buckle found at Sutton Hoo

the Annie Tramner Charitable Trust, which previously owned the estate. Suffolk County Council, the Rural Development Commission and the European Union. The trust is to launch a

separate appeal for £100,000 to bring the total funding to £4.66 million.

Work will start next year on a visitor centre, a shop, a tearoom and an explanatory exhibition hall, all to open in

2000. A car park and a network of footpaths round the site should be ready by 1999.

Peter Rooley, publicity officer for the Sutton Hoo Society, said: "Sutton Hoo has long been a mecca for archaeologists, but it has not had a high public profile hitherto. We are delighted the funds now exist to bring the site to a much wider audience."

Professor Martin Carver, director of the Sutton Hoo Research Trust, said: "Sutton Hoo is a beacon of knowledge for the formation of the early kingdoms of Dark Age Europe, and this award will allow a first class on-site

presentation of its unique contribution to history."

The importance of the site was revealed in 1959 when, at the instigation of the landowner, a tumulus was excavated to reveal the outline of a cinder-built timber ship, 59ft long, filled with a rich collection of grave goods.

Archaeologists believe the ship-burial may have been the grave of Raedwald, a king of the East Angles, who died around 625. Among the items found were a helmet, sword and shield, gold coins, silver and bronze bowls, a great silver dish from Byzantium, and decayed clothing, including a cloak of Near East origin.

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Be here now, but come back next week

Carol Midgley reports on the hype surrounding Oasis's latest album

OASIS fans, desperate to hear the band's long-awaited new album, were last night caught up in one of the most sophisticated marketing operations of the decade.

Frenzied teenagers crowded into Virgin megastores across the country, where exclusive preview copies of *Be Here Now* were piped across interstate radios.

However, the fans were not allowed to buy the album. That would have disrupted the carefully controlled publicity operation that has dominated its release since last month. Instead they were asked to return a week tomorrow when it goes on sale.

Hype surrounding *Be Here Now* has been described as some of the most sophisticated in pop history. Followers of Noel and Liam Gallagher and their band have been teased with drips of information disseminated in hundreds of newspaper and magazine articles, while radio stations have fought for snatches of the album. When it goes on sale on August 21, it is expected to sell 700,000 copies in three

days, climbing straight to No 1 in the charts.

Only a handful of reviewers have been allowed to hear the hallowed tape, and they have had to sign detailed contracts with Creation Records promising that they will not play it to anyone else. Retailers have been forbidden to open at midnight on August 21 to sell the first copies of what is almost certain to be the biggest-selling album of the year. Instead, they will go on sale at 9am on the day, with HMV opening all 100 stores early and providing breakfast and "first-day cover" certificates.

Mike McGreever, programming editor of *Music and Media*, *Billboard*'s sister publication in Britain, said: "It has all been about hype, but it is a very clever marketing ploy. It creates a real buzz. There is an atmosphere not unparalleled with the Beatles."

He added that allowing fans to hear the album but not to buy it was to create a "Pavlov's dogs" effect, but he said it could backfire. "It's a tease," he said. "If you are hearing something you want but you



Clare Kember, DJ at the Virgin megastore in Oxford Street, preparing for the preview of *Be Here Now*

can't buy it, you could end up feeling very frustrated. And all this waiting increases the expectation of the album. Let's hope it's good."

Oasis's recent single, *D'You Know What I Mean*, caused some ill feeling as it was

promised exclusively to Radio 1, but other commercial stations got it at the same time, scooping the BBC and leading to on-air sniping between the various DJs.

Photographic Performance Ltd, the body which licenses

records for public use in Britain, issued an almost unprecedented embargo to broadcasters on their use of the album. Colleen Huie, head of external affairs at PPL, said:

"It's very, very rare. It's not something we would like to repeat. It is a huge task to carry out this exercise."

Oasis fans have been backing the band for the No 1 Christmas single. William Hill have them at 3-1 second favourites behind the Spice Girls at 5-4.

Sound and fury that signifies something big

Alan Jackson reviews the new album, and finds himself applauding a band that has taken a risk by refusing to compromise.



WITH a sound that is jagger-mam-big and equally unstoppable, *Be Here Now* offers an Oasis so idiosyncratic and uncompromising as to be almost cartoon-like.

The musical equivalent to the manifestation of the Gallagher brothers (mouthy, anti-establishment and in-your-face, but, despite it all, with hearts of tarnished gold) that has so captivated their fans, it shows itself simultaneously ready to buy a drink for all its mates, and to cuff sceptics around the ears with its full-on wall of sound.

Given that nothing threatens and heroic status quite like a gesture of compromise to the mainstream, how much more efficient can one loud, proud rock LP be?

Inevitably, all those lulled into a false sense of security by Noel Gallagher's public endorsements of his songwriting idol Burt Bacharach, and by the Mike Flowers Pops' camp-but-nice reconstruction of *Wonderwall*, are going to find themselves slapped around the face and smarting. Even though *Be Here Now's* two most rounded and satisfying songs, *The Girl In The Dirty Shirt* and *Don't Go Away*, are romantic and affecting at heart, they could hardly be described as easy listening. And elsewhere, with producer Owen Morris taking on the mantle of a father-day Phil Spector, the sound is uneasy indeed.

But what, if anything, does it signify, all this sound and fury? It signifies that with this, their third album, Oasis are demanding to be viewed as world contenders, not just the gangland vultures of 1995's Britpop wars. There is also

nothing shy or self-effacing about these 11 new songs: collectively they form possibly the most swaggering, unapologetic studio set we have heard since U2 hit their commercial peak.

What will either charm or

alarm the band's hoped-for

and potentially vast new audi-

ence in America is just how

little attention these same

songs pay to what has been

happening musically outside

of the British Isles. Noting the

genre's tendency towards can-

nibalism, critic and commen-

tator David Quantick once

predicted "pop will eat itself".

Be Here Now is the result of

that feasting and regurgita-

tion: from the inevitable

Beatles to Led Zeppelin, the

Small Faces to Mott The

Hoople, all worthwhile do-

mestic rock life (even their

own back-catalogue) is here,

the reference points sometimes so little disguised as to appear barely half-chewed.

What binds this stew to-

gether in convincing and,

ultimately, celebratory fash-

ion, however, is the Gallag-

hers' sheer and infectious

self-confidence. Track after

track is allowed to expand to

suit itself: most clock in at

around the six-minute mark,

with *All Around The World* (the compositionally weakest of all) stretching to a full nine,

with an additional reprise.

Behind this sonic swagger

though, can be found endear-

ing acknowledgements of in-

dividual weakness: "Damn

my education/I can't find the

words to say/ All the things

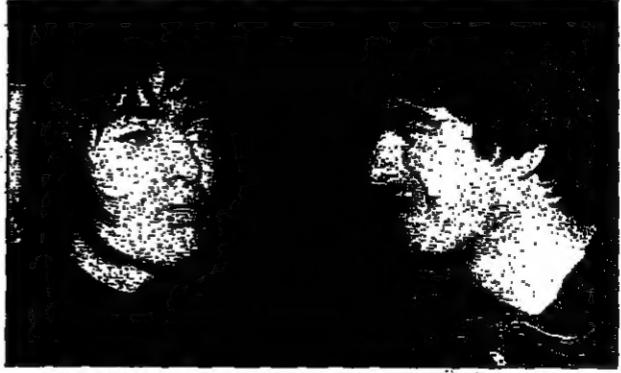
caught in my mind." It is this

facility for such everyday-ish

tones, at once cocky but

vulnerable, that is central to

the Oasis success story.



Mouthy: Gallagher brothers Liam, left, and Noel

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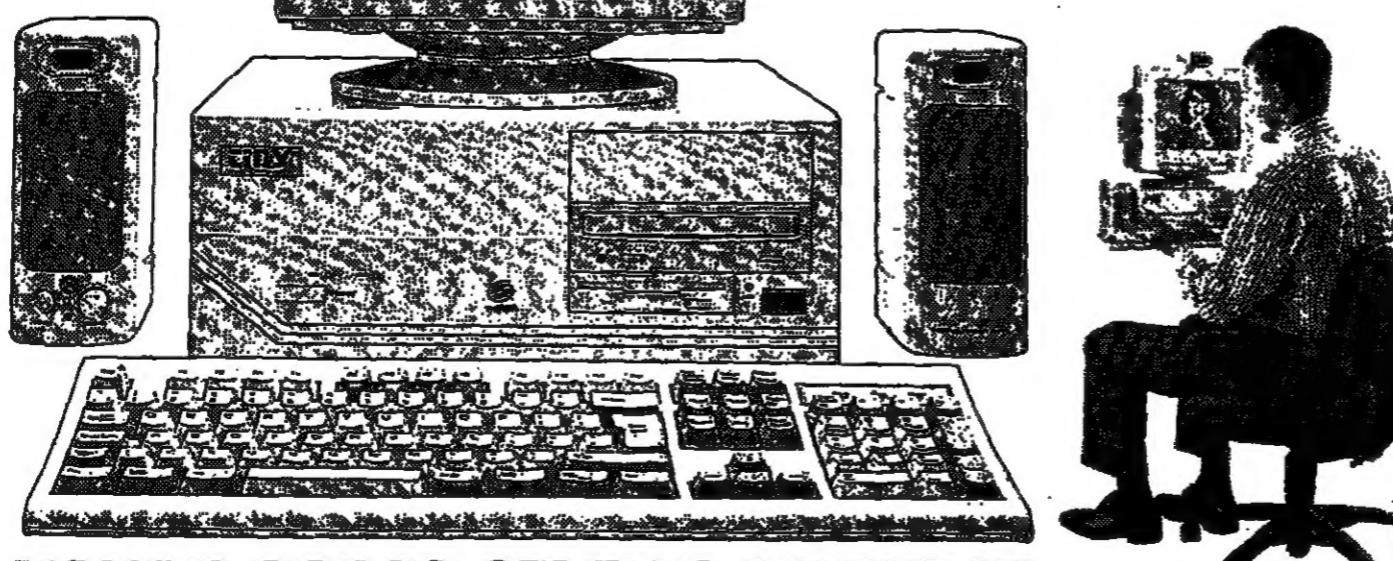
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DNA scientists join war against malaria

A century after the discovery of how it spreads, the disease kills 2 million people a year. Nigel Hawkes reports

A HUNT for a new weapon against malaria has been launched as the disease threatens to get out of control around the world. The £3 million research project is starting a century almost to the day since the British physician Ronald Ross discovered that mosquitoes were the carriers for malaria parasite, and passed it on when they bit.

Scientists working for the Wellcome Trust, a British charity, will spend three years working out the full genetic sequence of the parasite, to identify features that may be susceptible attack by drugs.

Malaria kills more than two million people a year, most of them children. It is increasingly resistant to drugs, and poses a threat to tourists from the West who visit malaria-prone regions. The disease has spread back into India, Brazil, Sri Lanka and Turkey, and there have been sporadic cases in many US states.

Dr John Stephenson, of the Wellcome Trust, said: "The rapid and continuing increase of drug-resistant malaria parasites is presenting the possibility that soon there may no longer be any effective treatment." The new project is

based at the Wellcome Trust Genome Campus at Hinxton, near Cambridge.

Genetic information that controls the life cycle of the parasite *Plasmodium falciparum* is stored in the base-pairs which link together to make up the DNA. It is estimated to contain 30 million base-pairs, making it considerably larger than any other organism so far sequenced.

The work is likely to be shared with an American team, but final details have yet to be worked out. Dr Stephenson said: "This important and innovative initiative will accelerate the pace of research into this devastating disease and identify tens of thousands of novel drug and vaccine targets, instead of the few currently available."

Malaria has become resistant to chloroquine, the cheapest and most widely available drug. Resistance has also developed to a more recent drug, mefloquine (Lariam), which many people are reluctant to take because of reported side-effects such as dizziness.

Traditional methods of controlling the disease — including mosquito nets, insecticides and draining the pools where



Ross: he won a Nobel prize for his discovery

the mosquitoes breed — have failed in many countries.

An international conference next week in Hyderabad, India, will bring together 650 scientists, public health officials and funding agencies. Marking the centenary of Ross's discovery, the aim is to raise awareness and call for concerted action to prevent what the Malaria Foundation calls "a major worldwide public health disaster".

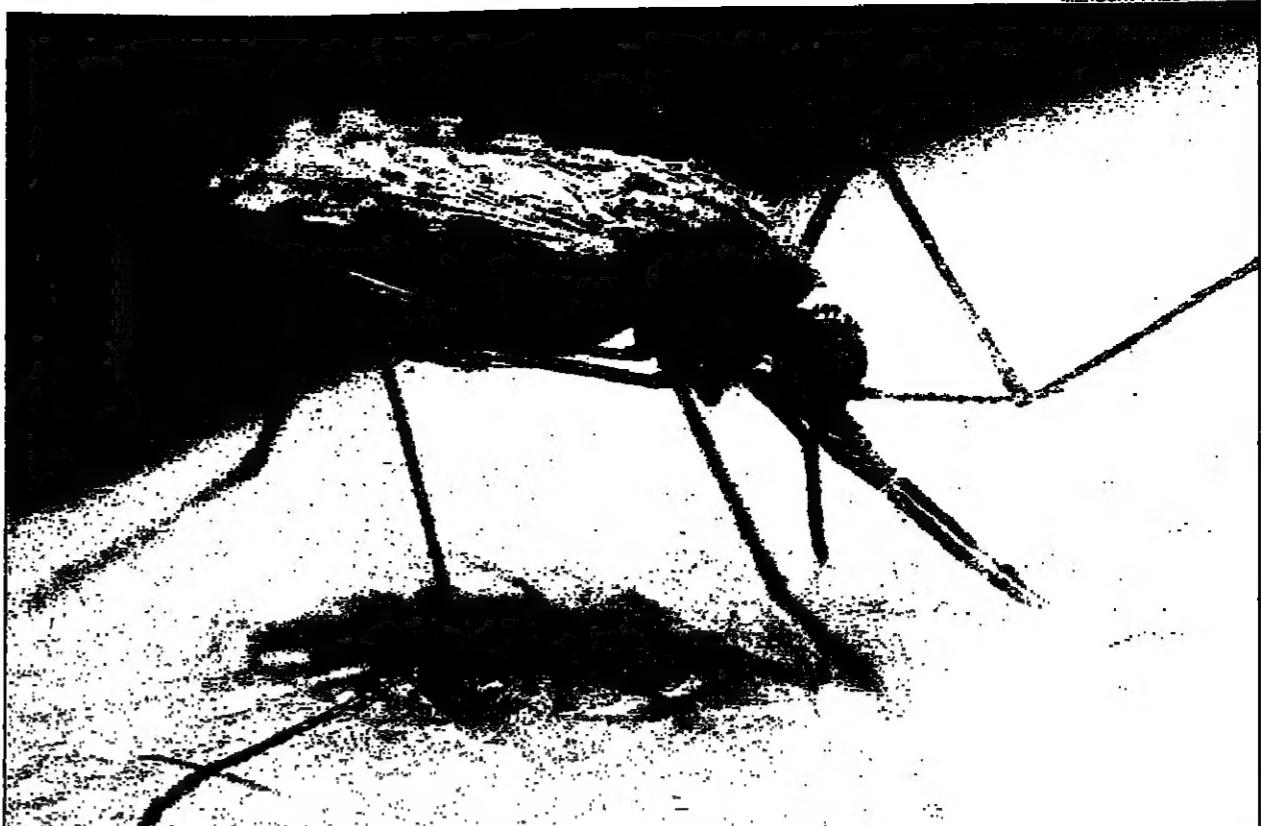
Before 20 August 1897, when Ross worked out how the parasite spread, the popular view had been that it was caused by contaminated air (hence malaria) or through infected water. Others had speculated that the mosquito was responsible. Ross, who worked for the Indian Medical

Service, proved it by dissecting mosquitoes, including one which had just fed on a malaria patient.

This mosquito yielded the parasites that had already been identified as the cause of the disease. By killing mosquitoes or preventing them from breeding or biting, it was discovered that the disease could be controlled. Ross won the Nobel Prize in 1902, and was knighted in 1911. He died in 1932.

Perhaps the greatest early success from his discovery was in Panama, a graveyard for the French team which had tried and failed to build a canal between the Atlantic and the Pacific. Poor planning, disease and a financial scandal defeated them. Later, the successful American team had the advantage of Ross's work, and the canal was completed in 1914.

Malaria was common in England between the times of Elizabeth I and Victoria; Shakespeare called it theague. It disappeared between 1860 and 1930. Medical historians have long argued over how this happened, suggesting better housing, easier availability of quinine and the introduction of the turnip in 1860 as a winter feed for cattle. The turnip enabled many animals to be kept alive through the winter instead of being slaughtered, and mosquitoes preferred to bite cows than human beings.



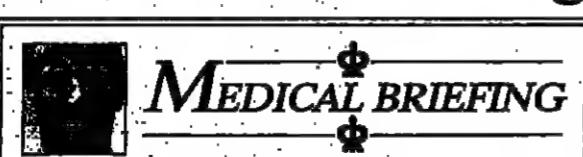
The inside story: a mosquito feasts on human blood while, along its stomach wall, below left, malaria parasites are shown in blue on an electron-micrograph picture. Right, parasites (blue and pink) attack a red blood cell

Elderly drivers less dangerous than young

RECENTLY, when driving from the Reform Club, I was stopped by the police. Why, they asked, was I driving so slowly? The reply that I was "thinking" was considered inadequate and I was asked to take a breath test. When their meter failed to show a response, they repeated the test and then their initial question.

They were decent officers, doing their duty, and afterwards they patted me on the back and said: "Ah well, doctor, if you like driving slowly that's your right."

Fortunately, most older motorists travel slowly. Steady driving and the caution born of experience, helps to



minimise tragedies such as that in Hampshire on Monday, when a mother died and her baby was injured after a woman aged 84 died at the wheel of her car and crashed into them.

Sudden fatalities are rare. A patient with a coronary thrombosis feels crushing chest pain and nausea, which usually gives time to draw into the side of the road.

Many strokes are heralded by the worst headache that can be imagined and only the most selfish, or brave, would fail to pull into a layby. Cardiac arrhythmia, some forms of stroke, and seizures can cause immediate paralysis, but fortunately these are rare while an elderly person is driving.

Chronic problems are more likely to create a risk for older

drivers. Failing eyesight and increasing dementia may lead to an accident if a motorist pulls out at a junction without looking properly.

The law says that eyesight should be tested in good light and does not differentiate between day and night vision. Even at dusk, eyesight begins to fail in older patients and this could make driving unsafe. Oncoming headlights can cause dazzling dazzle, particularly if cataracts are developing. Glaucoma shrinks the field of vision so that a pedestrian on the pavement may not be noticed.

Older patients are more likely to nod off if they have had a sleepless night and attempt to travel too far the next day. Long-distance driving should always include time set aside for a rest or nap on the way.

Once a driver has reached the age of 70, the Driver Vehicle Licensing Agency asks pertinent questions before a licence is renewed. A medical examination is requested if there are doubts. Road deaths are, however, more likely to be caused by a speeding young driver than a sick elderly motorist.

DR THOMAS STUTTAFFORD

X-ray vision helps doctors to reach their diagnosis

BY NIGEL HAWKES
SCIENCE EDITOR

DOCTORS at Hammersmith Hospital in west London can now consult X-ray images on screen, using an electronic system inaugurated yesterday by Frank Dobson, the Health Secretary.

The system allows doctors to enlarge part of the image for closer study, and to fetch it on monitors in the hospital's wards, clinics, operating theatres and casualty units. Patients should benefit from

receiving lower doses of radiation, and an end to delays caused by not having X-ray film available.

The £13 million Picture Archiving and Communication System is the result of seven years' research. Nuala Martin, manager of imaging at the hospital, said: "This system offers enormous advantages.

There is no risk of images

being lost or misfiled, and because of the technology involved the radiation dosage is less than for conventional X-rays. Another advantage, for

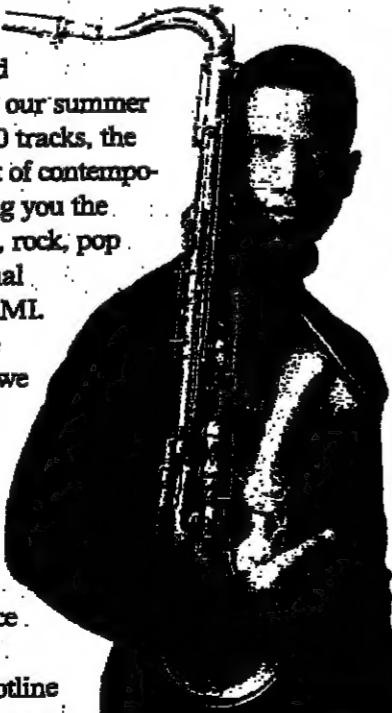
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Reflecting Mirrors
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(08) Henry Threadgill
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EDINBURGH FESTIVAL

Comedians are left labouring for laughter

Dalya Alberge
reports on how
the political
satirists are
already missing
their Tory targets

REAL life has gone beyond a joke for "alternative" comedians. For years, they had never had it so good. Now they are lamenting the passing of the Conservatives.

Comics at the Edinburgh Festival yesterday expressed regret that a wealth of targets for left-wing mockery had been changed by the arrival of Labour. The problem has been partly blamed for a fall in the number of stand-ups on the fringe, from 200 last year to about 140.

"It's messed up my act," Boothby Graffoe grumbled to his audience on Monday night. "I used to be able to say, 'The Government — what bastards!' and get a laugh. Now, it's, 'The Government — hurry! Let's work with the things we've wanted them to do all this time.'

Off stage, he described the Tory downfall as a tragic loss to comedy: "Labour are doing the things we've wanted them to do all this time."

Junior Simpson, a young comedian hailed as the new Lenny Henry, said that the morning after celebrating the election result he woke up to a hangover and the realisation that he had pages of material to rip up: "The rise of what they used to call alternative comedy and the Tory Government go hand in hand. Now, after the 18 years — and a lot of people's material was based along that — they may have to turn the page and move on."

One of his gags was prompted by Tony Blair revealing that he smacks his children. Simpson impersonated John Major confiding: "I never slap my kids. My kids slap me."

Nica Burns, director of the Perrier Award, Britain's most prestigious comedy prize, said that most comics were Labour voters: "Even if Tony Blair blows it, it's going to be very hard to knock them. He's PC."

"Comedy is about subversion and fighting against something. The more hated



Graffoe: Labour had "messed up" his act

political work, he is producing a topical comment show, *Stuff The Week*. The winner of the LWT Writing Award will receive a £1,000 cheque and a commission to develop a script for television.

Mr Barclay said that comedians were wondering what was left to be angry about. "I remember John Cleese saying that satire can only exist under a right-wing government. He may be right." Mr Barclay's team has been debating whether there is satire to be done under a Labour Government. "It demands more original thought."

Other comics felt that Labour was simply too dull. Donna McPhail, who is appearing at the Gilded Balloon theatre, said: "They don't seem to have a sense of humour. I'm on the verge of thinking they're too boring. Let's get the Tories back."

However, her hopes were raised by Robin Cook's infidelity. Her latest routine touches on Cherie Blair, the Prime Minister's wife. "She's a bit of a slapper, opening her front door. But I liked her nylon nightie and the mascara coming down her face. I used to say Norma doesn't go to bed, they hang her up in a closet."

Marcus Brigstocke, winner of the 1996 BBC New Comedian of the Year award, felt that some comedians would be uneasy knocking Labour, while others, such as himself, felt that Labour policies were so close to the Tories that nothing had changed.

Some of the more radical left-wing comedians had no hesitation in attacking a Labour Government. Mark Thomas, who will be appearing at Edinburgh's Queen's Hall, said: "Mark Twain once said that the last person you want in the White House is someone who wants to be there. That's the attitude people should take."

Arts, page 31



A Major loss: Junior Simpson used to mock the last Prime Minister. Now he has ripped up pages of jokes

Jokes will be on Mandelson

BY MARK HENDERSON

VETERANS of political satire were certain yesterday that the Government's comedy honeymoon would soon be over. Barry Took, who took aim at politicians in *That Was The Week That Was* in the 1960s, said comedians would go for whichever party was in power.

"There has been political satire and jokes as long as there has been writing. On *TW3* we took the piss out of Harold Wilson every bit as much as we did Macmillan and Douglas-Home," Took said yesterday.

New Labour had not yet done enough in government to allow comedians to find a theme, he said. "There are plenty of characters to go for, but they are still fresh, and also very shrewd. Cook and Mandelson look like good targets, but are too bright to be got. Saying Mandelson's up to something sinister is



Barry Took, left, has already picked his targets, but David Baddiel feels a new approach is needed

like saying that chap Machiavelli is causing trouble in Italy."

Michael Palin, who poked fun in *Monty Python*, said: "Satire should be oblivious of whatever party is in power and should seek to knock the absurdities of life. It should go beyond politics."

He said that the Conserva-

tives had particularly excelled at making "tools of themselves", but added that there was plenty of time for Labour to match them.

Ned Sherrin, another *TW3* veteran, said: "Labour should enjoy the full as they will have years of sulping. It will be like Wilson's Government; loving *TW3* in Opposi-

tion but hating it in power. Harman and Dobson have all the comic potential of a George Brown. Peter Mandelson will be funny when he comes out of his coffin at night."

David Baddiel, a younger member of the comedy establishment, felt that political comedy had been on the wane for years. "I have always made a conscious decision not to do it, as everyone was doing it when I started."

He said that the Commedia dell'arte had been the most popular form of comedy in Italy for 400 years, but that the British public had lost interest in it.

"People can also be topical without being political. You can joke about Dodi and Diana or Oasis and still be satirical."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Brocket tryst inquiry

The Prison Service is investigating claims that Lord Brocket, who is serving five years for a £4.5 million vintage car fraud, spent an hour in bed with a woman during a fake medical appointment. Ford open prison in West Sussex is checking an appointment made by Brocket with a physiotherapist. A prison officer took him to a house ten miles from the prison and watched as Brocket was ushered inside by an attractive young woman. The curtains were drawn and Brocket spent an hour inside. The officer reported the incident to the governor.

Pilot named

The two men who died in a helicopter crash near the M6 in Lancashire were named as Peter Thorn, the pilot, of Weybridge, Surrey, and Peter Husler, 38, of Epworth, Yorkshire. They were carrying out gas pipeline checks.

Sky-jumper hurt

A parachutist was taken to hospital after leaping 400ft from a 41-storey building in the Barbican, London. The man, who injured his leg, was among a group of five jumpers. The others landed safely and ran off.

99 call hoaxer

A 16-year-old who made 999 calls was given 100 hours' community service and had his radio equipment confiscated. The teenager from Leeds admitted at a youth court in Bradford to breaches of the Wireless Telegraphy Act.

Wife due home

The wife of the British pastor killed by bandits in Hungary is to return home this week after recovering from treatment. Jo Pollard, 55, had her jaw and nose broken in the attack which left her husband Michael, 62, dead.

Rescue flashback

The yachtsman Tony Bullimore, who survived for four days after capsizing in the Southern Ocean in January, is to recreate his ordeal in Tasmania for a documentary. A replica of his upturned yacht will be built in a pool.

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The Queen and Disraeli, who said that with royalty, flattery should be "laid on with a trowel"

Rivals who were the chalk and cheese of politics

Politics was essentially a spectator-sport in Victorian times, and that was true in more senses than one. It was not just a question of the vast crowds that would turn out to hear political speeches: W.E. Gladstone spoke to an audience of at least 25,000 in Bingley Hall, Birmingham, in 1877. (Many Premiership football clubs would count themselves lucky to have that number of people on their terraces today.)

Yet, at the same time, going to see and hear great men was the limit of participation allowed to most citizens. The Great Reform Bill of 1832 had increased the electorate merely from 435,000 to 652,000. Although Disraeli's Second Reform Bill of 1867 raised the total number of voters in nearly two million, it was left for Gladstone with his Third Reform Bill of 1884 not merely to increase the electorate (all, of course, men) nearly four million, but also to extend the franchise to the inhabitants of the countryside. (Country folk, presumably in deference to feudalism, had not been beneficiaries of the previous two Reform Bills.)

Party alignments in those days were also a much more fluid business. When Victoria came to the throne in 1837, her first Prime Minister, Lord Melbourne, may have been nominally a Whig, but by temperament and instinct he was a Tory.

Melbourne had been totally unenthusiastic about Lord John Russell's Reform Bill of 1832, and he was never reconciled to Sir Robert Peel's repeal of the Corn Laws in 1845 — the measure that prompted Benjamin Disraeli to remark that a Tory Prime Minister had "caught the Whigs bathing and walked off with their clothes".

That kind of thing was not to happen in British politics

again until the advent of Liberalism and new Labour.

However, they were not partisans. Victorian politics were still very much personality-dominated. If, only in longevity, Gladstone bestrode the era like no one else, he was first elected to Parliament in 1832 and was still an MP, and indeed Prime Minister, at the age of 84 in 1894.

Gladstone's only rival, Disraeli, though he certainly illuminated the political firmament, dazzled for a much briefer period. The two of them, of course, had once been members of the same political party. That was back at the dawn of Gladstone's famous career, when Lord Macaulay famously referred to "him" in the *Edinburgh Review* of 1839 as "the rising hope of those stern and unbending Tories".

Disraeli, to be fair to him, was never one of those.

Indeed, from the moment in 1846 that he risked a flat fee about never having asked Peel for a job, he was always one of the great chancers of politics — the quality that, no doubt, makes him the "favourite Tory" of left-wing politicians such as Michael Foot.

How such an adventurer, pure and simple (to borrow Foot's words again) became the venerated icon of modern progressive Toryism must remain one of the many impenetrable "mysteries" attached

not least with that shameless remark addressed to the writer of *Leaves from Our High-Land Journal*: "We authors, Ma'am."

Disraeli and Gladstone were probably always destined to be chalk and cheese.

But, oddly, something went out of Victorian politics with Disraeli's death in 1881.

The 3rd Marquess of Salisbury was, no doubt, an admirable figure, but he lacked all popular appeal.

In fact he was scared of the public, as witnessed by his habit of sleep-walking towards the windows at Hatfield and quailing before an imaginary mob which, Salisbury feared, was about to break in.

Of course, the mob did eventually break into modern politics, with universal suffrage first coming into play with the "flapper" vote at the 1929 general election. The joke was that it proved to be the best insurance policy the Tories had ever taken out. Had they but realised it, in her political attitudes Victoria had always spoken for the women of England.

In her political attitudes, Victoria always spoke for the women of the country

ers summoned to her service in London).

To give the old charlatan his due, there were never any flies on him. It was he, after all, who once cynically observed: "Everyone likes flattery and when you come to royalty what you should lay it on with a trowel."

(Which is roughly what he did.

NEXT: Nursing with Nightingale, and the engineer who built London's sewers. How the Victorians invented cleanliness and revolutionised public health

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Debt-ridden Disraeli was showered with royal gifts

Kindness to his Queen reaped rich rewards, writes Alan Hamilton



Disraeli's dining room, with Victoria's portrait

trees have been replaced. It is

still a particularly pleasant place.

Born Jewish but baptised

an Anglican at 15, Disraeli

entered the Commons in 1837,

when Jews were banned from

Westminster. He had an im-

pressive confidence in his tal-

ents even before he entered

politics. In his diary for 1833,

displayed in the House, he

wrote: "My mind is a con-

tinental mind. It is a revolution-

ary mind. I am only truly

great in action. If ever I am

placed in a truly eminent

position, I shall prove this. I

could rule the House of Com-

mmons, although there would

be a great prejudice against

me at first. It is the most

jealous assembly in the

world."

As a novelist, he despised

most contemporary fiction,

except, of course, his own. "If I

want to read a novel, I write

one," he remarked. He sent Victoria a complete set of his works; she responded with an elaborately bound volume of Goethe.

In a bedroom at Hughenden are displayed his formal robes as Chancellor of the Exchequer, which by rights he should have handed to his successor. But he was determined that Gladstone should not have them, forcing the great man to have a set of his own made — a set still available for Gordon Brown's use should he overcome his distaste for formal dress.

On Disraeli's death in 1881, Victoria came to Hughenden and sat alone in his study. He declined burial at Westminster Abbey, preferring the country church at the end of his drive. Inside, there is a memorial to him erected by Victoria, with a text from the Book of Proverbs: "Kings love him that speaketh right."

Hughenden Manor, Buckinghamshire (National Trust). 1½ miles N of High Wycombe, on A4128 to Great Missenden. Open Wed-Sun, afternoons only (grounds from midday). Adults £3.90, children £1.90

Country retreat bursting with history's junk

The Gladstone family were great hoarders.

Alan Hamilton picks over the clutter



Fasque, the Gladstones' family home at Fettercairn, Aberdeenshire

Country houses open to the public can sometimes be sterile places. But not Fasque, the Scottish family seat of the Gladstones in the deep hinterland between Dundee and Aberdeen, where the great man spent much of his childhood and to which he regularly retreated in his older years. Fasque is not only still lived in by Gladstone's great-grandson, it is a gloriously disorganized clutter.

The Gladstone family appear to have been incapable of throwing anything away. Gladstone bags, jammed and rusted shut but still tantalizingly full of goodness, know what, litter the hall. The dairy overflows with a collection of old milk bottles, all different. Ancient carpet sweepers and brass candlesticks lurk in dark corners of the servants' quarters. On the shelf is an elderly megaphone for bellowing instructions to grouse beaters.

As I poked about below stairs, among enormous cane salmon rods with brass reels, gun cases, walking sticks, and a cane device for drying waders, the curator produced a large brown paper parcel tied with string he had found behind a chair only the day before. Its label declared it to be a consignment of paper shooting targets, and it was plastered with "urgent" stickers. It was still waiting to be opened: the postmark showed it had been dispatched from London in 1922. Fasque is the perfect illustration of

Gladstone's eminently Victorian roots. His son, John, made a fortune as a corn merchant in Liverpool, feeding the industrial masses in the Lancashire cotton mills. John Gladstone bought Fasque and its estate in 1829, and it remains largely unchanged from its late-Victorian heyday as the upstairs-downstairs seat of self-made men.

Upstairs is reached by a fine double-cambered staircase, leading to the light, airy library where William spent many a peaceful hour, immersed in Horner. Among the thousands of books is the Gladstone family Bible, with the dynasty's births, marriages and deaths recorded in copperplate on the flyleaf. When I went in, it was lying casually on the floor, and I nearly fell over it.

Above the fireplace is a portrait of George Canning, the liberal Tory Prime Minister who was a major influence on William's decision to leave the Tory Party at the time of Corn Law repeal.

A side room is devoted to Gladstone

memorabilia including letters, photographs, ornate gifts from grateful town councils and silver spades with which he cut first sods. Fasque hopes to add Gladstone's battered old red budget box, now that Gordon Brown has replaced it with a smart new number made by apprentices in his Fife constituency.

But it is downstairs that truly reeks of another age. The servants' dining hall is set out as a schoolroom for estate children, equipped with a prehistoric electric radiator and an ancient glass device for demonstrating electricity. In the corridors are first-generation brass telephones and speaking tubes for communication between butler and master, and dusty boxes of Balmoral Sperm — a Victorian brand of candle.

Fasque employed up to 15 domestic staff, and a good number of those would have spent back-breaking Mon-

days in the laundry. Most of the machinery still exists: clothes boilers, mangles, a complex chain-and-belt driven machine for pressing sheets, and a stove for keeping 50 flatirons hot at once.

Gladstone loved this house, and wished he had inherited it rather than his wife's Welsh pile at Hawarden in Flintshire. But Fasque went to his elder brother, Thomas.

Such is the clutter that the family

have called in Bonhams to hold an auction of superfluous lumber on September 27. If you cannot make the sale, go soon to the house, before anyone has the bright idea of tidying it up.

Fasque House, Aberdeenshire, is on the B974 Brechin to Banchory road, half a mile north of Fettercairn. Open daily until September 30, 11.50-30. Adults £3.50, children £1, concessions £2.50. Guided tours on request.

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Fasque House, Aberdeenshire, is on the B974 Brechin to Banchory road, half a mile north of Fettercairn. Open daily until September 30, 11.50-30. Adults £3.50, children £1, concessions £2.50. Guided tours on request.

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How Elvis tried to aid Nixon in drugs crusade

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

THE most bizarre White House encounter of modern times — when Elvis Presley met Richard Nixon — was commemorated by the US Administration yesterday.

Adding to the considerable hype marking the twentieth anniversary of Presley's death next Saturday, the National Archives released copious details and photographs on the Internet from official records of the meeting.

Discarding its usual stodgy image, the National Archives' Presley site recounts how, on the morning of December 21, 1970, he arrived unannounced at the White House to deliver a rambling five-page letter to Nixon written on American Airlines stationery.

The rock and roll pioneer wanted to give Nixon a chrome-plated Colt .45, "a real collector's gun", and to obtain for himself the credentials of a federal agent in the war on

drugs. Presley offered to serve privately against what he considered to be threats to America. He wrote: "The drug culture, the hippie elements, the Students for a Democratic Society, Black Panthers etc. do NOT consider me as their enemy or as they call it The Establishment. I call it America and I love it. Sir, I can and will be of any service that I can to help The Country out."

But Krogh, a Nixon aide, thought the letter was a hoax until a call to Presley's hotel established that he was indeed in Washington. The meeting was approved, even though H. R. Haldeman, Nixon's humorless chief of staff, wrote on the memo "You must be kidding".

Presley was resplendent in purple velvet cape, tight-fitting matching trousers, a high-collared white shirt open to his chest, a gold medallion around his neck and a gold belt buckle as wide as a tyre. Nixon, rising from his desk, said: "It's very good to meet you, Mr Presley. I appreciate your offer to help us on the drug problem." Despite his abuse of prescription drugs that led to his death in 1977, Presley did denounce street drugs at every opportunity.



A resplendent Elvis Presley meets President Nixon at the White House in 1970. The President said: "It's very good to meet you, Mr Presley. I appreciate your offer to help us on the drug problem."

*Dear Mr. President
First I would like to introduce myself
I am Elvis Presley and advise you*

The letter Presley wrote to Nixon, offering to serve against what he considered were threats to the US

for Presley to maintain his credibility.

They agreed to keep their meeting secret and, incredibly, no word of it leaked out for 13 months. Nixon consented to Presley having a badge as an honorary agent of the federal Narcotics Bureau.

Presley was so ecstatic that he hugged the President, a gesture that evidently caught Nixon off guard. He responded awkwardly with a pat on the shoulder.

Nixon said Presley could reach young people as no one in government could. As a paranoid himself, Nixon may have recognised similar symptoms in Presley. He reiterated three times that it was crucial

Mr Krogh, now a Seattle lawyer, says: "The meeting was one of the most improbable things that ever happened in the White House. The odds are a million to one that anybody could drive up, hand in a letter to the President and have a meeting three hours later."

Jerry Schilling, one of the bodyguards and now a film producer, said: "You could see there was a meeting of minds between these two guys who

were both at the top of their profession. The top is pretty lonely, no matter what profession you're in."

As for the Colt .45, it was checked over first by the Secret Service and now has pride of place at the Nixon Library and birthplace in Yorba Linda, California.

The meeting can be found at: <http://www.nara.gov/exhibit/just/carter.htm>

□ Carter concern: Jimmy Carter, the former President,

was reported yesterday to wonder if he could have saved Elvis Presley who phoned him while "totally stoned" weeks before his death.

Presley did not know what he was saying and his sentences were almost incoherent, Mr Carter told *The New Yorker* magazine. He said he had patiently tried to ease Presley out of his paranoid delusions, calming his fears that he was being "shadowed" by sinister forces.

Brits add touch of evil to Hollywood cast of villains

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN
IN NEW YORK

AS POLITICAL correctness and a certain *fin de siècle* embarrassment drive Hollywood to pension off such staple baddies as Arab terrorists, wily Orientals and Latino drug lords, one "ethnic group" — the British — remains untouched by changing trends.

For all the new-fangled racial sensitivity that has swept Tinseltown in recent years, it is still permissible to cast the Brits as evil.

Indeed, some would say that it is positively encouraged.

As the cry goes up for "ethnically neutral" villains, Hollywood is also resorting increasingly to Communist bad guys. *Air Force One*, this week's box-office success, features crazed Communists missile-slingers who are determined to restore Russia to its full Brezhnevian glory. The film is a reassuring return to older certitudes, when America equalled "good" and Communists equalled "bad".

A forthcoming film, *The Red*

Corner, features titanic tussles between the good old boys from America and Chinese Communists bent on killing off the capitalist monster. As with *Air Force One*, the villains' ethnicity — Chinese or Russian — is submerged in a sea of "ideology". Evil doctrine erases Slavic features, Russian accents, narrow eyes, and an inability to pronounce the letter "r".

Yet the British have withheld even this onslaught, featuring in a number of recent films as the devil incarnate. From *The Silence of the*

Lambs and *The Lion King*, to *Star Wars*, *Braveheart* and *Michael Collins*, the British, or their accent, are employed to portray fiendishness, villainy and cruelty.

Hannibal Lecter, played by Sir Anthony Hopkins, was the textbook Brit from Hollywood central casting. Machiavellian, snobbish, toffee-faced and totally amoral, although playing an American he nourished stereotype of Britons that America has cherished ever since it fought to free itself from the Empire. And if one feature forms

the basis of the image, it is the accent: it oozes, to American ears, a malice univalued by other races.

There are other stereotypes of the race, that turn on the accent. The same manner of speech that can make an audience break out in boos — consider *Scar*, the Lion King's evil uncle, to whom Jeremy Irons lent his cut-glass voice — can, at a Manhattan soirée, cause a hostess to flush with pleasure. "O, I love your accent," is a phrase that British hear almost daily in America, and never really tire of hearing.

From cabbies to dentists, from cashiers to the woman beside at a dinner party, a well-bred British accent works wonders in America, melting all resistance. Yet take that voice to the screen, and it provokes fear, sending shivers down the spine of audiences.

The British, however, take this in their stride. As long as Hollywood needs villains, it will need Britons. No one, neither the audience, nor the actors, is complaining.

Leading article, page 17

Kennedy clan lose leading supporter

BY TUNKU VARADARAJAN

ONE of the most consistent supporters of the Kennedys, *The New York Times*, appears at last to have turned against its favourite clan.

In a hard-hitting editorial published yesterday entitled "Naked Kennedy Truth", the newspaper described John F Kennedy Jr, the son of President Kennedy, as "vapid", attacking him for a piece he wrote this week for his own magazine, *George*, in which he described two of his cousins as "poster boys for bad behaviour".

"John Kennedy's little essay", the newspaper said, is a "sign of the end of the Kennedys as an entitled political class".

The editorial continues: "Members of the third generation, like Representative Joseph Kennedy [the son of the late Robert Kennedy] in his faltering bid for the Massachusetts governorship, will have to be judged on the content of what they write and say, rather than as packages of money and genes."

The tone of the editorial would appear to suggest a pronounced departure from *The New York Times*'s customary pro-Kennedy stance, which it has maintained unwaveringly through a succession of recent paedophiles, rape charges and messy divorces.

Insiders suggest that Mr Kennedy's latest offering in *George*, which the editorial calls "sophomoric", has proved the last straw for Howell Raines, the editor of the editorial page.

A thundering Southern moralist, he is believed to have been deeply offended by Mr Kennedy's description of his cousin Michael's alleged sexual relationship with an underage babysitter as a "hedge against morality".

"John Kennedy should learn to call sleeping with the babysitter sleeping with the babysitter," the editorial declares.

A newspaper source said: "The *New York Times* has always had a higher idea of the Kennedys than the Kennedys have had about themselves. It was all bound to unravel one day."

Tim Hammer, page 16

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Klinghoffer family ends PLO suit

BY TUNKU VARADARAJAN

THE family of Leon Klinghoffer, the disabled New Yorker who was shot in his wheelchair and pushed overboard from the cruise ship *Achille Lauro* 12 years ago by Palestinian gunmen, have agreed to drop their lawsuit against the Palestine Liberation Organisation in return for a substantial monetary settlement.

The sum, which has not been disclosed, is believed to amount to tens of millions of dollars. The PLO also settled its litigation with Crown Travel, the New Jersey travel company which organised the ill-starred Mediterranean cruise for Mr Klinghoffer and his wife, Marilyn, in 1985, taken to celebrate their 36th wedding anniversary.

However, Nasser al-Kidwa, the PLO's permanent observer at the United Nations, insisted that the settlement was not an admission of wrongdoing. He said: "We have always said that the PLO had nothing to do with this tragic event and we maintain, of course, that position."

The PLO has always argued that the attack on the *Achille Lauro* on October 8, 1985, was the work of a renegade group acting without the knowledge or support of the organisation's high command.

Arafat to meet demands for crackdown on terror

FROM ROSS DUNN IN JERUSALEM

ISRAEL and the Palestinian Authority appeared last night to be nearing a compromise as Israeli television reported that Yassir Arafat, the Palestinian leader, had agreed to clamp down on Islamic militants.

This followed assurances from Dennis Ross, the US Special Envoy, that he would address Palestinian complaints against Israel.

Continuing his shuttle diplomacy, Mr Ross said that Israel and the Palestinians would resume security cooperation, which was suspended in March following the decision to build a new Jewish neighbourhood in east Jerusalem.

"I think we have a start at this point on the security relationship and we will look for the concrete results and we will be watching," he said.

Despite these developments, Palestinian leaders criticised Mr Ross's emphasis on security. Saeb Erekat, the Palestinian chief negotiator, said: "It is premature to jump to conclusions about the results of Mr Ross's mission. But we hope that all of us will be able to put the peace process back on track."

Mr Erekat's remarks underline the fact that Mr Ross has only been laying the groundwork for a trip later this month.

We are trying to verify that Yassir Arafat, fulfills the commitments he gave Israel to fight terrorism, crack down on the terrorist infrastructure, arrest the leaders, collect their guns and dismantle bomb factories," Mr Netanyahu said.

Israel has eased some of the restrictions on Palestinians, allowing truckloads of food into the territories and agricultural exports into the Jewish State. Mr Ross had criticised Israel for some of the security measures against the Palestinians which he said were counterproductive.

□ Nablus: Three officers from Yassir Arafat's elite Force 17 bodyguards were convicted of treason for spying for Israel. Fawzi Sawalha, 23, described as the ringleader, was sentenced to death. Khalid Athman, 24, was sentenced to life in prison, and Tamer Jamil, 22, to 15 years. (AP)

Today the Israeli leader will travel to Amman for talks with Jordan's King Hussein as efforts to jump-start the peace talks continue.

But while the discussions in the political backrooms may be showing progress, the scenes in the streets yesterday were anything but encouraging. The Palestinian Authority joined Hamas in organising a joint demonstration in the West Bank town of Nablus to protest at the Israeli closure of the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Thousands of Palestinians threw stones, burned Israeli and American flags, and an effigy of Mr Netanyahu.

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New move to break Lockerbie stalemate

BY MICHAEL BINNION, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

THE Foreign Office confirmed yesterday that the Government is to look again at ways of breaking the stalemate over the demand for the extradition from Libya of the two men accused of the Lockerbie bombing.

The move comes after a visit to Tripoli last week by two British politicians and the father of one of the victims. In two days of talks with senior Libyan ministers they were told that Colonel Gaddafi was ready to consider changes in his offer to send the two accused for trial in a third country, rather than America or Scotland as the West has insisted.

Lord Steel, former Liberal Democrat leader, Sir Cyril Townsend, former vice-chairman of the Conservative parliamentary foreign affairs committee, and Dr Jim Swire, representing the victims of the

Lockebie bombing, met Muhammed Swai, the Justice Minister, and Abd al-Aziz al-Obidi, a deputy foreign minister. They later briefed the Foreign Office and called the secret visit useful, but would not divulge details of the Libyan proposals.

The Foreign Office played down suggestions that the Government was softening its stance. A spokesman insisted that, after examining the documents, the Lord Advocate still believed there was strong evidence against Abdul Basset Ali al-Megrahi and Al-Amin Khalifa Fhimah, the suspects who have been kept under house arrest in Tripoli since November 1991.

The Foreign Office denied a suggestion by Tam Dalyell, the Labour MP who has long campaigned for a fresh approach to Libya, that Tony Blair was

"uneasy" with the case against Libya. It said Mr Blair was "uneasy with an impasse that has lasted more than eight years".

Britain has repeatedly rejected a trial in a third country, even using Scottish or American legal procedures. The limited UN sanctions against Libya were renewed last month, and Tony Blair, a junior Foreign Office Minister, told the families of victims that there was "no change of policy". But the Government is keeping a close watch on claims by an Iranian convicted in Germany of killing a Kurdish dissident in Berlin, that Tripoli, not Tripoli, planned the 1988 bombing of the Pan American plane that killed 270 people. "We are in touch with Bonn and are keeping an open mind," a spokesman said.

Afghan allies prepare to take Kabul

Retreating Taleban poison wells and mine villagers' homes as Mujahidin drive fighters to outskirts of capital

FROM MICHAEL DYNES
IN MAZAR-I-SHARIF

ABOUT 1,500 Mujahidin commanders gathered at the mouth of the Panjshir Valley yesterday to choose an interim government and hammer out their strategy for what they hope will be the final assault on the city of Kabul.

As General Ahmed Shah Masood, the former Government's defence chief, spelled out his plans to erect a security cordon around the city, men and military equipment poured into the Shomali Valley, north of Kabul, in anticipation of a big battle ahead.

General Masood, whose forces had withstood repeated air and ground bombardments launched by the messianic Taleban fighters, now commands unparalleled authority among the various factions that make up the anti-Taleban alliance.

The "northern alliance", made up of General Masood's Tajik fighters, the Uzbek warriors of General Abdul Malik, and the ethnic Shia militia of Karim Khalili, are quietly confident that they are at the beginning of the end of their struggle against the Islamic zealots.

This is not the first time the anti-Taleban alliance has claimed it is on the verge of victory. But they have been buoyed by their victories in the



past three months over the Taleban who have taken a terrible beating. Three weeks ago the "northern alliance" pushed the Taleban back to within 12 miles of Kabul. Now about 6,000 fighters of the alliance are positioned north of Kabul and are ready to launch a huge assault.

General Masood's forces are surprised by their easy victory in the Shomali Valley, which they recaptured for the second time in ten months. That success fuelled exaggerated expectations of a storming of the gates of Kabul early last week.

The majority of the 200,000 inhabitants of the Shomali

Valley have abandoned their homes and farms for safer ground in the hills or far-flung villages. A few remain, tending their crops, despite periodic bombardment from Taleban rocket launchers.

Reports have already reached the northern city of Mazar-i-Sharif about the scorched earth policy practised by the Taleban as they were chased into the hills north of Kabul.

People returning from the front line claim that Taleban fighters had thrown dead cows into wells to poison the water supply. A huge Chinese-built pumping station that helped to irrigate the entire plain was blown up.

The Taleban have also mined the mud-brick homes of the civilian population, turning them into deadly booby traps.

These actions have shocked Afghan villagers who have experienced many a horror during 18 years of constant war and civil war. The Taleban may have originally set out to win the hearts and minds of the people, but they now seem to be implementing the dictum of General William Westmoreland, commander of American forces in Vietnam till shortly after the 1968 Tet offensive: "Grab them by the balls and their hearts and minds will follow."

Red Crescent officials estimate that about 7,000 civilians

wounded in fighting over the past three months. "The number of dead is anybody's guess," an official said.

Reports here also suggest that General Masood may be orchestrating simultaneous

assaults on the Taleban-held cities of Jalalabad, east of Kabul, and Herat in the northwest of the country. But it is the prospect of bloody street battles for control of the capital that could lead to untold casualties.

■ Kabul: The Red Crescent said yesterday a flare-up in fighting in Afghanistan was causing the humanitarian situation to deteriorate. In a press communiqué released in Geneva, the organisation also criticised the "northern alliance" for denying it access to an estimated 3,000 prisoners of war. It said: "The ongoing fighting has prompted a major humanitarian alert."

Of the 7,000 war wounded on both sides of the front line that the Red Crescent has

treated in the past three months, an official in Afghanistan said: "We haven't had so many people wounded in a similar period over the last three years. There are clearly signs of an escalation in the conflict." (Reuters)

A guard watches over 1,600 Taleban prisoners of war at a camp in the Panjshir Valley. The Red Crescent has been denied access to the captives

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Blair family holiday drags sleepy village into the limelight

THE two hundred inhabitants of this sleepy village south of Toulouse, who for the past four years have kept Tony Blair's French holiday refuge discreetly hidden, yesterday woke up to find themselves famous and their cover blown.

"Yes, my children play with Mr Blair's children," said Gilbert Boucher, the village carpenter and joiner who doubles as caretaker at the nearby 12th-century château where the Blairs are expected to arrive this weekend after spending two weeks in Tuscany.

M. Boucher seemed bemused and amused by the sudden limelight, as television cameramen filmed him, the village sweeper and a lone tractor carrying hay. "Nothing much moves in Saint Martin d'Oydes, particularly in the heat of an August day. The little post office by the medieval church of St

Anastase closes at midday on the dot. There is a village shop, but no cafe, bar or restaurant. The deep silence is broken only by the chime of the church bell.

"Mr Blair walks to the shop to buy bread," M. Boucher said. "Otherwise the family read and swim." M. Boucher's son Nicolas, 15, posed for the cameras on his mountain bike, informing the world that the Blair children — Nicholas, Euan and Kathryn — speak some French, so that although he speaks no English, they play together. "They have not changed since they became the children of the British Prime Minister," he said.

Paul Esquivel, who runs the shop, said his phone had not stopped ringing since the news of the Blairs' imminent arrival broke. "We are suddenly on the map," he said. The château belongs to Sir



In tranquil Saint Martin d'Oydes the Prime Minister's summer visit is being hailed as the biggest thing since the Black Death, writes Richard Owen

David Keene, a High Court judge who is part of the Blairs' inner circle of legal friends. Sir David, according to the villagers, is "traveling in Africa" and is not expected back until September. Officials in Paris confirmed that Mr Blair would meet Lionel Jospin, the French Prime Minister — whose constituency is near by in Cintegabelle — next week.

The Blairs are in the second and final week of their holiday on the ten-acre estate of Geoffrey Robinson, the Paymaster General, in the Tuscan hills near San Gimignano,

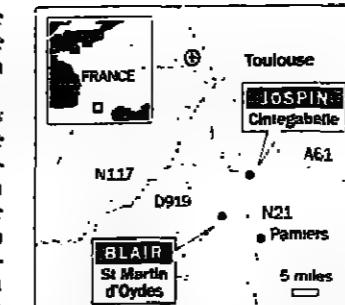
where they first went last summer. Clearly Mr Blair is drawn to the south — although the Ariège, in the foothills of the Pyrenees, is flatter and not as lush as Chianti, with Tuscany's cypresses and olive groves giving way to dusty avenues of plane trees.

This is *La France Profonde*, with endless fields of wheat and sunflowers punctuated by buildings of red brick and roof tiles. The rambling three-storey villa, which dominates the main village street, is built in the same local style, with a turret at either end. A

high wall fails to hide the house and 45-foot swimming pool. The area is popular with British, Dutch and German tourists.

"I would have thought there was a security problem here for the Prime Minister," said Bruce Anderson, a business consultant from Downe, Kent, who is renting the château at the moment with two other families. "The telephone engineers have been in to install extra lines, but we haven't seen any sign of the police or the security services yet."

Unlike in Tuscany, the French hideaway does not have a tennis court. But there is a games room in case of wet weather — the area was deluged this week — and a video and satellite television (the dish sprouts incongruously from one of the turrets). There are four bedrooms, including a children's dormitory, and a large farmhouse



kitchen with flagstones and a giant oak refectory table. The current tenants, who rented the house through an agency and are not personal friends of Sir David, were not told that Mr Blair and his family were arriving next.

"We heard about it from the cook," Mr Anderson said. "Our wives tossed a coin to decide which couple would have the master

bedroom. My wife won. As it happens she's called Pamela, and we're thinking of selling her story to the tabloids, along the lines of 'Pamela Anderson's torrid romps in Tony Blair's bed'."

There is also a library, well stocked with the latest biographies and novels. Guests are required to sign books out and return them, and several have Cherie Blair's signature in the flyleaf from previous visits.

"You need the library because there is nothing else to do here," said Graham Burrill, a retired insurance broker who is also staying at the château. "This village is like the *Mary Celeste*. It would be a big event when the traffic lights changed, except that there aren't any traffic lights. Tony Blair's visit is the biggest thing around here since the Black Death."

DIDIER DURON / REUTER

Tobacco firms find new haven

FROM ROGER BOYES
IN WARSAW

Marboro Man may be riding into the sunset in the United States and Western Europe but here, in one of the last chain-smoking oases in the world, he is sitting high in the saddle.

Poland, the rest of Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union have become the growth area for tobacco companies such as Philip Morris, British-American Tobacco and R.J. Reynolds which are buying up factories and energetically marketing tobacco.

World Tobacco File, which monitors global smoking patterns, says that while cigarette sales dropped by 4.5 per cent in the US and Canada between 1994 and 1995, and by 1.7 per cent in Western Europe, they soared by 5.6 per cent in the post-Communist world.

There is, however, a fightback by fledgeling anti-smoking lobbyists who point to the very high incidence of cancer in Eastern Europe. Marlboro Man and Joe Camel figure prominently on the billboards around Warsaw central station, but so do the health warnings.

According to a new anti-smoking law in Poland, the health warnings will have to cover 30 per cent of the cigarette packaging by the end of the year (compared to about 6 per cent in Western Europe) and 20 per cent of billboards. Poland, in other words, is trying to move quickly towards the US prohibition regime.

Smoking in institutions or public buildings has been banned and the campaigners want to push through a ban on smoking while driving.

But there is a big gap in Eastern Europe between the legislation and smoking practice. In Warsaw hospitals, patients gather in stairwells to puff: nurses and doctors rank among the most dedicated smokers. "Nobody enforces the ban," says Iwona Eysmont, a consultant who smokes a packet a day.

However, the key factor in the rise in smoking has been the scale of the involvement by tobacco companies. More than \$3 billion (£1.9 billion) has been spent by Western tobacco companies in the region over the past six years.

Ex-bodyguard wins fight to 'expose' Yeltsin

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

PRESIDENT Yeltsin's former bodyguard yesterday claimed victory in a year-long battle with the Kremlin when he announced the publication of his memoirs that are likely to embarrass the Russian leader and many key figures in his administration.

Aleksandr Korzhakov, who for more than a decade was the Kremlin's closest confidant before his sacking last year, said that the authorities had tried bribes and threats to block the book *Boris Yeltsin: From Dawn to Dusk*, which is out today. "I believe that the people should know the people who rule them," said the burly former KGB agent, who for five years was regarded as the second most powerful man in the Kremlin. The book portrays Yeltsin as a person, and not as a figure behind a mask."

Despite his declared noble ideals, the book seems largely motivated by revenge. The two men's relationship was destroyed last year after Mr Yeltsin ignored Mr Korzhakov's removal from power. Describing Mrs Dyachenko as a "bit of fluff," he alleges that she was duped into her role by scheming Kremlin couriers, in particular Anatoli Chubais, the deputy Prime Minister, and Boris Berezovsky, the billionaire and deputy head of the security council.

Mr Korzhakov claims that

putting it mildly. In page after page Mr Korzhakov describes his former employer as mentally unstable, and at times suicidal, an alcoholic who allowed Russia's key reform period to be hijacked by a corrupt bureaucracy and a criminal business class.

For the first time, the author sets out plausible versions for bizarre events in 1994. He writes that Mr Yeltsin was unable to attend an official ceremony at Shannon airport because he had suffered a heart seizure or stroke on the flight over from America. He also gives a detailed account of the incident earlier that year in Germany when Mr Yeltsin seized the baton from the hand of a German military conductor and began to conduct the band at a ceremony for the withdrawal of Russian troops from Berlin.

He also attacks Tatyana Dyachenko, Mr. Yeltsin's daughter and adviser, who was instrumental in Mr Korzhakov's removal from power. Describing Mrs Dyachenko as a "bit of fluff," he alleges that she was duped into her role by scheming Kremlin couriers, in particular Anatoli Chubais, the deputy Prime Minister, and Boris Berezovsky, the billionaire and deputy head of the security council.

Mr Korzhakov claims that

on one occasion Mr Korzhakov discussed murdering Yuri Luzhkov, the Mayor of Moscow, to prevent his presidential ambitions and also talked of killing the mayor's allies, media magnate Vladimir Gusinsky and the singer Iosif Kobzon.

He also takes a swipe at Viktor Chernomyrdin, the Prime Minister, whom he alleges secretly collected 1,500,000 signatures ahead of last year's presidential elections, in case the Russian leader did not survive to polling day and the premier could put forward his candidacy instead.

The impact of Mr Korzhakov's book, which is due to have an initial print run of 150,000, is unlikely seriously to threaten the Russian leadership. Most of the events contained in the book occurred several years ago, and many of the allegations must be viewed with scepticism, since Mr Korzhakov was himself one of the most notorious figures to emerge from the Yeltsin Kremlin.

Nevertheless, senior Kremlin sources said yesterday that the book would not go unnoticed. "These two men were very good friends, and it still hurts the President to hear these allegations made by someone so close to him for so long."

Karadzic 'refused US aid to evade war crimes net'

FROM TOM WALKER
IN BANJA LUKA

BUT there is a big gap in Eastern Europe between the legislation and smoking practice. In Warsaw hospitals, patients gather in stairwells to puff: nurses and doctors rank among the most dedicated smokers. "Nobody enforces the ban," says Iwona Eysmont, a consultant who smokes a packet a day.

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she is bound by the Republika Srpska constitution, which prohibits extradition. With her own future so precarious, Richard Holbrooke, the American special envoy, did not mention the subject on his recent visit to Banja Luka. "I was really grateful," she said.

Mrs Plavšić's views on ethnic reintegration are coloured by her former career as biological professor at Sarajevo university. "If rules in society are not well co-ordinated with biological rules then you have a small chance to function," she said.

"Bosnian" Muslims are by origin Christians. They are not from Turkey or the Arabian countries. If you have leaders who want to be included in the Islamic world but the roots are somewhere else then you have the basis for confusion." An Orthodox cross glistened on her pink dress.

Despite these views, which earned her a reputation during the war as a champion of ethnic cleansing, Mrs Plavšić insists that tolerance remains possible in Republika Srpska. "It's going to be multi-ethnic in the way of England or Germany. Nobody thinks it is a territory only for the Serbs," she said.

She angrily rejected United Nations statistics which suggest Serb refugees are more likely to return to the Muslim-Croat Federation than Muslim refugees are to Republika Srpska. "You are completely wrong. Serbs do not like going to the federation. Maybe they are going there to sell their property. I would say more Muslims like to come here than Serbs go to the

territory only for the Serbs," she said.

One American diplomatic source in Bosnia said recently that he believed the Karadzic family had already been secretly moved to Russia. Dr Karadzic popped up again last week with an interview in a German newspaper, and for the moment he still controls Bosnia. "You are completely wrong. Serbs do not like going to the federation. Maybe they are going there to sell their property. I would say more Muslims like to come here than Serbs go to the

territory only for the Serbs," she said.

Mrs Plavšić wants to be rid of Dr Karadzic but can't support his removal by Nato to a tribunal, she does not accept. Her way out of this conundrum is to say that she backs the Dayton peace accord — which stipulates that all suspected war criminals be taken to The Hague — but that

before the war out of this conundrum is to say that she backs the Dayton peace accord — which stipulates that all suspected war criminals be taken to The Hague — but that



Aleksandr Korzhakov, displays the dust jacket of his book *Boris Yeltsin: From Dawn to Dusk*, which is published today. The book portrays the Russian President as suicidal and an alcoholic

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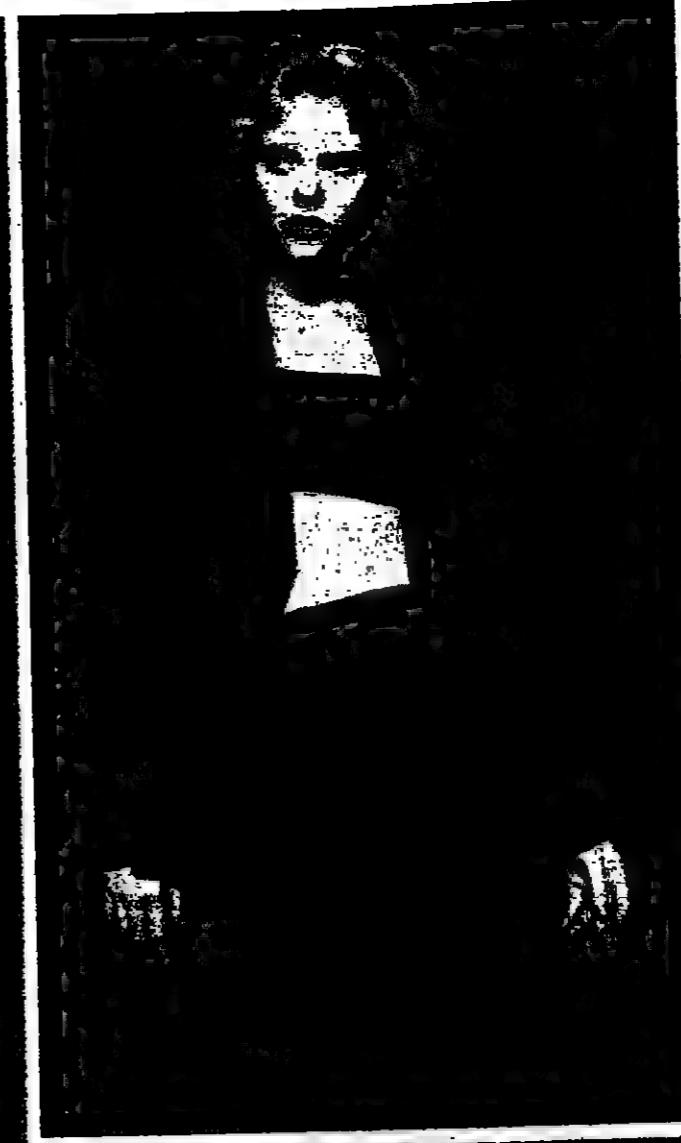
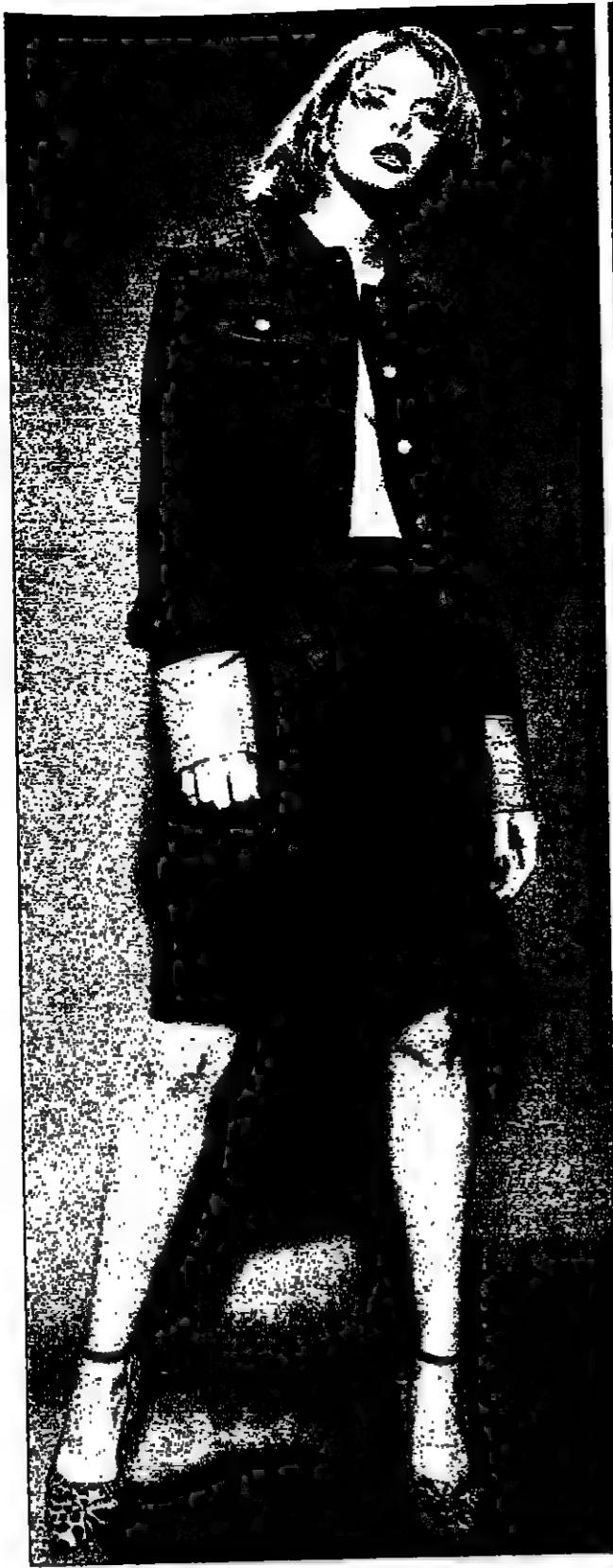
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The rebirth of the blues



LEFT: Indigo denim jacket with turn-up sleeves, £150, and matching skirt, £80, by Helmut Lang at Browns Focus, 38/39 South Molton Street, London W1. Animal-print ankle strap shoes, £250, by Insofta at Russell & Bromley, 24/25 New Bond Street, London W1. Earrings from a selection at Detail, 4a Symons Street, London SW1. ABOVE: Lace vest, £20, and denim skirt, £40, both by Warhouse. Red python court

shoes, £235 by Gina, 189 Sloane Street, London SW1. INSET: Indigo denim one-button jacket, £228 by Clements Ribeiro at Liberty, Regent Street, London W1. Denim A-line skirt, £24.99 and stretch leatherette buster, £24.99 both by Oasis, 232 Regent Street, London W1. Photographer: TIM WHITE. Stylist: Nicola Goldie. Hair: Matthew Wade at The Industry. Make-up: Daniel Sandler for Nars. Model: Charly at Select

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'I have always got even. It's so therapeutic'

Philip Seldon always gains revenge — and shows others how: Barry Wigmore reports

When Philip Seldon was a small and skinny schoolboy, he was the child all the others picked on. A callow youth with buck teeth, in the playground he was bullied. In love, he was laughed at.

Philip started leaving embarrassing notes, forged in his adversaries' handwriting and signed with their names so the teacher would find them. Young Philip soon discovered what he believes to be an inarguable fact of life: revenge is sweet.

He moved on to more cunning ploys. As a teenager he would report, anonymously, foes who crossed him to the police for traffic violations, such as lights not working on their cars.

He knew the lights did not work because he had removed the bulbs.

Seldon has been getting even ever since. In fact he has made a mini-career of it. Now he lectures on the subject in the world's biggest battleground for getting even: New York. There is no shortage of willing disciples wishing to take evening classes and learn from his experiences.

From dumped spouses to angry mothers-in-law and sacked workers, they queue to attend his high altar of revenge. Some of them, and the lessons he teaches, can be seen on *Inside Story* tonight on BBC1.

There is *vengeance*, where dead and murderous desire for vengeance on her-cured "dork" of a boyfriend has all the signs of a real

life *Fatal Attraction*. There is Martha who was given ten minutes to clean her desk after 26 years in the same job.

And there is Donna who wants to get even with the man who created a "beautiful fantasy of a marriage" then walked out, leaving only a message on her answering machine. Donna has already burnt £100,000 in computer equipment belonging to her ex, and is eager to learn more tactics.

"I wouldn't advise anything destructive like that," cautions Seldon. "That might be illegal, although it could be argued that the computers were joint property. You must stay within the law." What he does advise can be seen on tonight's programme, he says. "But,"

"I have heard that my ploys work and people feel much better as a result."

Seldon, 36, masterminds his get-even classes from the Manhattan apartment which is also his office. He gives his lectures at local private colleges.

"I have always got even," he says. "It's so therapeutic. How else are you going to sleep at night when someone has hurt you? It's also really quite simple. You look for the weakness. Everybody has one. You plot and you move."

"Getting even" is not just an American dream, of course. There have been some spectacular acts of revenge in Britain. Like Lady Mose, who shredded the arms of her husband's £2 Savile Row suits,

he adds. "I have heard that my ploys work and people feel much better as a result."

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The important thing is not to think too small. Generally speaking, the grander the scheme, the more satisfying the result. No sting is too ambitious — especially if it works

poured six litres of white paint all over his BMW and distributed his 70 bottles of vintage wine to neighbourhood doorsteps. And Sandy Gall's wife, Eleanor, who dumped his golfclubs, suits and expensive wine outside his mistress's front door.

Seldon admires that ploy. "The important thing is not to think too small," he says. "Generally speaking, the grander the scheme, the more satisfying the result. No sting is too ambitious — especially when it works."

And he should know. In his other life, Seldon is a wine writer and publisher. At the height of public interest in men on the Moon and

the space programme, he remembers, a group of NASA men approached him to write a book with them — the inside story of a moon shot.

One was a public relations officer with NASA, the others said that they were scientists. What he did not know for some time was that they were all claiming to be considerably more important than they were.

And they had signed the American equivalent of the Official Secrets Act, which said that no one could write a book without authority, and no individual could claim credit for the team effort.

"Their bosses were swamped with calls and there was all hell to pay," he recounts with satisfaction. "No matter how much they denied

it no one believed that they had not sent out that release."

Then there was the time Seldon was sacked for no apparent reason. In an elaborate sting he hired a friend, a freelance writer who was already happy with the work he was doing, to apply for the vacancy. Having got the job, the friend messed things up in spectacular fashion before walking out.

"It needs to be a good friend with a real sense of humour," Seldon concedes. "But if you plan a scam well, the satisfaction is enormous."

The best revenge, he says, is when the victim knows that you are responsible but can do absolutely nothing about it. It causes your

adversary inconvenience, embarrassment and better still, money. "I find that, generally speaking, women are better at revenge than men," he says. "They have more patience and the anger bubbles much longer. Men tend to want to lash out. Women can be more devious."

Recently, Seldon has run into a little trouble with his get-even classes. The college where he lectured went into liquidation, and he has found obstacles in his way at others he has approached.

"I just wonder," he muses darkly. "If someone is getting even."

• *Inside Story: Dial V for Vengeance*, tonight on BBC1 at 10pm

Selfridges: not a store, but a temple, where spirituality can be found + Di and Dodi prove a kiss isn't naughty, but nice + Prof and prejudice + The spy who taught me

With the right platitude you can work miracles

I don't surprise me that new figures show department stores are relatively speaking, enjoying a boom. Having spent Sunday indulging in a spot of retail therapy in Selfridges (air, conditioning, wonderful food hall and cookware department open on Sundays), I can attest to their healing powers.

In a mall, it is hard not to feel alienated, infantilised, as if sucked into a Fritz Lang film remake by Disney, as one is herded along over but sunless corridors like programmed-to-sleep sheep. The department store, too, subdues, but it understands that in an age of consumer worship, we want not villages, but temples: the department store is, as the scholar Peter

Gay established in *The Bourgeois Experience*, the cathedral of the modern age.

Now, the age about which Professor Gay, now at Yale, was writing might have been just as crassly materialistic as our own. But there are worse things to be than crassly materialistic. Indeed, it is when we try to show ourselves to be better — the clumsy pawing after "spirituality" — that we are at our most awful. The self-deceiving, self-congratulatory, woody-minded platitude that marks the contemporary sensibility is a case in point. Openness, briskness, clarity, understanding: these are meant to represent the spirit of the age. They do not.

I have found what truly represents the spirit of the age

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Nigella Lawson



it's own. Thus, for March 19, we have from "Lynn": "We workaholics make so many promises that no human being could possibly keep them. That is one of the ways we keep ourselves feeling bad about ourselves."

How anyone could get so much self-pity and self-aggrandisement into one sentence is beyond me — but not beyond the sphere of this book. I can't help feeling that the women who read it maybe do not do quite enough if they have time to ponder such issues as "Nothing I do is too tiny or too tedious to be spiritual", or "To err is human, to forgive divine. To forgive myself and others is merely human."

In another entry, the author has the audacity to compare the discouragement a woman feels during the course of her

working life with the difficulties Anna Akhmatova, the Russian poet, wrote about.

"I have wished for a miracle, and I can be one," the author concludes one day. "Who is the person I call me?" she asks on another. "She has the potential of being one of the most interesting persons I have ever met. Yet I hardly know her."

It would be hard to find more concentration of self-absorption, New Age daffiness and almost parodic homespun philosophising if you tried. Women tied themselves to the barricades, threw themselves under the King's horse — and for this?

The horrid for today, August 13, focuses on how much we seek to control ourselves and ends with the uplifting thought: "No wonder we don't smile much!" You said it, lady.

Question of intelligence is not so black and white

PROFESSOR Richard Lynn, of Ulster University, says that whites are more intelligent than blacks because they had to think cleverer thoughts to find food in cold lands. Never mind that Professor Lynn's being both white and the progenitor of this eccentric theory would seem, by definition, to work against its proof.

Think, rather, that all theories of racial hierarchies of intelligence must maintain consistency in the anthropological long term.

And yet, this has not always been the case within such studies. Or what, then, could

explain the intellectual gains made by the immigrant group that routinely appeared at the bottom of the list when intelligence was measured at the turn of the century? The same group that the Bell Curve, the last hyped study of comparative racial attributes, showed was now at the top of the heap. For the Ashkenazi Jews to have made such extraordinary and "intelligent" leaps in the course of one century is bewildering: unless, of course, we take into account the crucial factor of the changing acceptability of any particular prejudice.

Diana, goddess of the chaste

WE live, we know, in a sexually degenerate land, a land where the old virtues of constancy, faithfulness and virginity have lost whatever currency they once had. We follow our leaders, hopping from lover to lover, from bed to bed, without a thought for what our actions mean.

We know that we do this, because the tabloid press tells

Miss M's class background

A NEWSPAPER account of Eliza Manningham-Buller, the newly appointed woman tipped to take over MI5, offers the information that, for some time, friends had thought she was a teacher. Now it turns out she is a spy.

But the pose as teacher was no subterfuge. Indeed, I remember Miss Manningham-Buller: she taught me English. Not for long, it's true, and I can't remember much about the lessons (my fault, I'm sure), but it now gives a glamorous gloss to my otherwise unspectacular schooldays.

discover that, in the midst of all this writhing, those same tabloids are able to write that a single photographed kiss from a princess is not a signal of mere sexual attraction, but of true romance and, what is more, certain-to-lead to the altar. So decent, these tabloid commentators, able to retain such purity of thought in this wicked, wicked world.

It's odd, then, isn't it, to

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It's odd, then, isn't it, to

Alan Coren



■ Battered fish, chip shots and carpalid mania at the water hazard

Someone very dear to me has just been killed by a golf ball. I am still in shock. I was the one who discovered the corpse. I discovered it soon after I discovered the golf ball, because it was the golf ball which first came to my notice, being more noticeable than the corpse beside which it was floating. Since a shrewd guess will now be forming in your imagination, I suppose I should confess that, when I say very dear to me, I exaggerate somewhat: you cannot call two quid dear, even though it would probably be a fiver by now: the body is a lot bigger than it was six years ago when I carried it home with nine others in a plastic bag from Hendon Fishworld, in addition to which goldfish prices have doubtless shot up along with everything else. But anyway, dear or not, we have shared the same garden since 1991, it in the pond. I on the rim, and have grown as close to one another as those circumstances and our differing species permit and while I may agree that had it been the fish who discovered me in the pond, dead of a golf ball, it might not have gone into shock, I cannot accept that the loss of a close fish is in any way mitigated by the possibility that the affection was unrequited. Especially when the loss is exacerbated by its nature.

Someone killed the fish. Not in self-defence — I rather doubt that the fish leapt from the pond and set about a passing golfer, forcing him to protect himself with the first weapon that came to hand — but either deliberately or unwittingly, and I want the culprit nailed. For myself I and it has to be myself, I am not walking into my local nick with a dented goldfish and a Dunlop 65 and demanding to see the Chief Superintendent of the Serious Fish Squad; I am pretty certain that it cannot be the former: were some kind of crackpot stalking Cricklewood's sporadic wetlands and hurling golf balls at their fauna, I think I should have heard. I believe it to be another kind of crackpot, a conviction sustained, furthermore, by two other telling pieces of evidence, one in the guttering of my garden shed and one at the foot of my acacia: along with the carpalid Exhibit A, they would seem to constitute incontrovertible proof that, out there beyond my back wall, some madman is playing golf.

The question is, if I am going to stand any chance of nailing him, how far beyond? Did he, that is, tee off with a driver to reach my premises from a couple of hundred yards away, or take only, say, a Number 8 iron from half that distance? Or might it have been no more than a sand-wedge, clipping into my pond from another garden a mere street away? Did he stand there, bunkered perhaps in a neighbour's sandpit or stymied behind a plastic elf, and did he finally swing, ready to cheer his deft escape, only to see the arcing ball plummet into the notorious hazard known throughout golddom as Coren's Pond? And what about Coren's Gutter and Coren's Tree? Was that him on two earlier rounds? Or does he play with a couple of equally inept madmen? Might they, indeed, be a foursome, one of them either too incompetent to clear my wall, or competent enough to clear my house? Where, if the latter, did this one go after that? Is the green somewhere across the road, beyond my frontage? I know only that my garden is not the green, I have looked for a hole in my lawn, but though there are, of course, several, there is none that seems large enough. Certainly none with a flag in it.

You see, do you not, where deduction ends yet nailing fails to start? Since I do not know where in the nonional fairway my garden lies, I have no idea where this swine, these swines, is/are shooting from. I do not know when they did it, I have heard no one, I have seen no one, and may never do either, especially as their balls have been left where they lay, suggesting, perhaps, that my garden was never the target at all, merely the victim of three wild slices at the dog-leg fourth up the road.

Then again, I suppose it's always on the cards that they heard the unmistakable noise of gun-perch meeting goldfish, twirled that a major crime had been committed, and slunk away like the poltroons they are. I hope so. I hope they have been put off their stroke for good. There are nine more dear ones in the pond, and they have had enough of golf.

Tim Hames reports on the feuding that could see the fall of America's most powerful political dynasty

Is this the end of the line for the Kennedys?

Solidarity, Joseph Kennedy always told his sons, would be the source of their salvation. Until now that dictum has been respected by the entire Kennedy dynasty. Through tragedy and scandal, the clan stuck together and retained its political influence. This makes it even more astonishing that John Kennedy Jr, the son of the slain President, has broken ranks and assailed two cousins for their private failings. His attack on Michael Kennedy, the son of Robert Kennedy, for his apparent affair with a teenage babysitter, will have little lasting importance. His assault on Michael's elder brother, Joseph Kennedy II, is far more consequential and will be deemed treachery within the family.

Joseph Kennedy II's electoral fate is critical to the continued power of the Kennedys. After ten years in Congress, serving a district that once sent John F. Kennedy to the House of Representatives, he intends to become Governor of Massachusetts. If he is elected, to the only position of consequence within the state that a Kennedy has never held, then he will become a figure of real importance within the Democratic Party. If not, he is finished. The family's hold on Massachusetts affairs — a Kennedy has held office there for every year but two in the past half-century — will end when Edward Kennedy eventually retires from the Senate.

Unfortunately, Congressman Kennedy is not the ideal figure to lead either his family or Massachusetts into the next millennium. He seems to lack the intelligence, oratorical skills, or personal charm of his father. His record during a decade in Washington has been widely viewed as dismal. His major "interventions" of note have been in foreign policy — essentially, Northern Ireland — where his ceaseless promotion of the IRA's cause has doubtless pleased his partisan constituents, but has otherwise been an embarrassment. He also dumped his first wife, Sheila. She promptly savaged him in print for having pressed her into an annulment. It was the Congressman's inept attempt at a public apology that prompted John Kennedy Jr's condemnation.

Nevertheless,

the entire might of the Kennedy machine will be deployed to make Joseph Kennedy II the Governor. Too much is on the line to permit trivial issues — such as a transparent lack of relevant qualifications — to enter electoral calculations. All the traditional weapons in the Kennedy arsenal will be deployed in the quest for, first, the Democratic Party nomination ten months hence; and then the final contest in November next year. The Congressman will vastly outspend any other candidate. His television commercials will shamelessly exploit public sympathy for his assassinated predecessors. The clan will also use its power of persuasion to prevent other potential contenders from entering the race.

The early signs are that the strategy

might be depressingly successful. Former Kennedy has already made it clear that he will spend more than \$10 million in the quest for office. Several alternative candidates from within the Massachusetts Democratic ranks have decided that they simply cannot compete at that level. Only one figure of real rank, State Attorney-General Scott Harshbarger, is inclined to make the race — but he has already found past financial contributors unwilling to commit themselves in a

state in which he barely met the residency requirements.

But even this audacity was outstripped by the methods used to elevate Edward Kennedy to the Senate. When Jack Kennedy won the White House, his Massachusetts Senate seat fell vacant. Bobby Kennedy's selection as Attorney-General removed the obvious successor from contention; that left Ted as the sole remaining brother.

Unfortunately, Ted was then 28 years old and the American Constitution stipulates that senators cannot be younger than 30. An almost unknown figure named Ben Smith, Jack Kennedy's Harvard University room-mate, a man of no prior or subsequent electoral experience, became a senator for two years and then retired into obscurity once Ted Kennedy became available.

The Kennedys have proved past-masters at winning elections regardless of their personal merits. Jack Kennedy ran for President in 1960 at the age of 43 despite very modest qualifications. Former President Harry Truman complained bitterly that the nomination had been bought for Kennedy by his billionaire father. Once elected, Jack appointed his brother as Attorney-General. That provoked outrage from the American Bar Association, who complained, correctly, that Bobby had no experience of legal practice. After the President's assassination, his brother sought election to the Senate from New York — a

Honour among vulgarians

The true purpose of the press is to make the complex simple and to grab the reader's eye. But it neglects this in its welter of synthetic rage over Mandelson and its tasteless hounding of the Princess

As a young reporter I once sent a reckless missive to my editor. That day's front page had somehow upset me and I pompously suggested that it was rather vulgar. The great man's riposte was swift. "Kindly remember. A newspaper is rather vulgar."

Every August revives that memory. I enter a newsagent's shop at present and the shelves blast me with a fusillade of tabloid intrusion and synthetic broadsheet rage. From Diana, Princess of Wales, to the machinations of Peter Mandelson, the media has spent the week in "search and destroy" mode. Reporters fan out, the hunter-gatherers of the service sector feeding their ravenous circulation managers. A gazelle limps from the herd and the pack descends and gnaws its flank.

I had thought that Diana was on a mildly honourable mission to bring cheer to landmine victims in Bosnia. Every public figure has an ulterior motive where publicity is at stake, but she could have stayed at the Fayed Ritz or on the Fayed yacht. Nobody made her go to Bosnia. I am sure the children with whom she was pictured were glad she went. Landmines are the most persistent of arms manufacturers. The Princess's publicity for their abolition is a worthy cause.

Yet these are the reflections of an unprofessional wimp. I am supposed to shriek across the Bosnian countryside: "What's it like to be in love again?", or, "How's Dodie?" If I so much as called: "What is your view, m'sam, of Article 8 of the European convention on privacy rights?" I would soon have been Harold Lloyd after a stampede, flat in the dust with my hat round my ears. Today's journalist is a Rambo with a Nikon 300mm lens at his hip. He hides for days in the maquis, waiting for the embrace that is worth a million. He questions the famous not in the hope of articulate reply but for a sharp camera angle. Pictures are doctored, quotes fabricated, spoilers invented.

The pictures of the Princess on the Fayed yacht were an intrusion on her privacy and in breach of all professional codes of conduct. In a better world all involved would be brought before a self-regulatory tribunal. But we jest. We might as well sue the Ganges for flooding. The whole world wants to see those grainy smudges. Nobody cares about the ethics. In this week's *Spectator*, Alan Clark wonders whether the British press wants to drive public figures to suicide. I think not. Journalists do not kill, but as the poet says, they "do not strive sufficiently to keep alive".

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For all the ministerial talk about Fleet Street drinking in the Last Chance Saloon, the photographers on the Diana story are as likely to read a manual on press ethics as they are Wittgenstein's *Tractatus*.

Which brings me to victim number two, Mr Mandelson. Like the Princess, he can defend himself. In the long run I



Simon Jenkins

with sufficient authority to knock heads together and make sure ministers do not shoot each other in the foot. The new Tory leader, William Hague, has even set out to "find a Tony Mandelson". For the Tories to protest that Mr Mandelson is too effective is hypocritical. They are jealous.

That is understandable. For the press to make the same complaint against Mr Mandelson is ludicrous. For the past week he has been portrayed as a near-criminal manipulator. To limit the damage of Robin Cook's separation from his wife, he leaked news of an inquiry into a possible security lapse by Chris Patten. His apparatus leaked

pseudo-news about the Royal Yacht. Nor was this all. Mr Mandelson kept popping up on radio and television to put Tony Blair's first 100 days in a good light. To crown the indignity, when a BBC reporter asked him pert questions, he was more than pert back. He was rude. The media's entire August shift burst into collective tears of indignation.

Mr Mandelson may not have been wise to court so much personal publicity this past week. As every bowler knows, the best spin is concealed. But the media has made an ass of itself. Since the days of Harold Wilson, Downing Street has drip-fed the lobby with daily news, views and title-tattle. On the old *Evening Standard*, a call came each morning from Trevor Lloyd-Hughes with the Prime Minister's spin on the day's events, hoping to influence the lunchtime edition. The key to such spin is the close relationship between impresario and chief. Sir Bernard Ingham had that relationship with Margaret Thatcher, so does Mr Mandelson with Mr Blair. It is immaterial whether the impresario is an official or a minister.

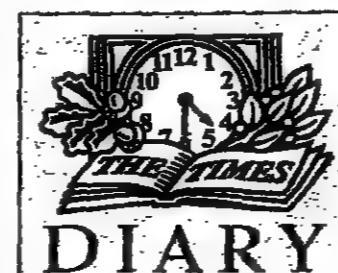
Laws to curb the press are again up for debate. They are either illiberal or unworkable. But when newspapers misbehave and the law is silent, people will start arming themselves against journalists. Diana, Princess of Wales, and Peter Mandelson were both doing their jobs last week, and doing them rather well. The obscene hounding of the one was tasteless and unethical, and is likely to invite privacy curbs on journalism. The pusillanimous whingeing about the other was sloppy journalism, and will encourage this Government to treat the profession with even more unruly contempt.

I like the concept of a vulgar press. Journalists should always battle to make the complex simple and to grab the reader's eye with novelty. Otherwise British newspapers will go the way of most American ones. They will be dull, and read only by an elite. But there must be honour even among vulgarians. Defining the limits of vulgarity is a job best done by the media itself. If it refuses, the limits will be fixed by others, and they will be tight.

United we stand

SALVATION is at hand for Sir Desmond Pitcher, the pilloried chairman of United Utilities, in the improbable form of the Duke of Edinburgh. Pitcher clung onto his job at United at an emergency shareholders' meeting yesterday, despite having seen off two chief executives and being publicly ridiculed as the fatest of the fat cats. Now, he has been lined up to take over as head of the World Fellowship of Donors to the Duke of Edinburgh Awards inter-

national scheme, in the new year. Pitcher has somehow managed to time the news of his colossal bonus payments to coincide with a mass wail of complaints from those who use his water supplies. An immodest man, with tastes in gold watch-chains and light-brown car dealer overcoats, he makes a strange bedfellow for the Duke. Nonetheless, last November, as Pitcher found himself bullet-dodging over the scale of his bonuses, the Duke stepped up to the plate by



going to open the North West Water centre in Warrington for him.

Pitcher is a curious choice for reasons besides his poor dress sense. His stewardship of the Merseyside Development Corporation was not a great success. Furthermore, he has been severely criticised at United for his parochial outlook and reluctance to look abroad to expand, as his European rivals have done. Not ideal qualifications, one would have thought, for one about to head an international fundraising body.

Home truths

THE main attraction at the Edinburgh Literary Festival yesterday was a public row between Margaret Forster, the novelist and biographer, and her husband, the writer

and journalist Hunter Davies. Wearing a Martin Bell-style white suit, Davies agreed to interview Forster before a packed marquee. This was no gentle bicker over the matrimonial. Mrs Davies squashed her husband's theories about her literary output, accused him of never reading her books, or understanding fiction at all, and rebuked him for over-enjoying such public occasions as the festival and the craven admiration of fans.

"You're like Mr Toad. You're in floods of tears if people aren't charmed by you," Ms Forster told

her husband. "I was always the cat who walked by herself."

Davies's last ill-advised question, "Are you a feminist?", elicited a sharp retort: "Of course." What does that mean?" asked Davies. "Oh God!" said a theatrical Forster.

The good ladies of Morningside

should be assured that the Davieses have been happily married for 37 years.

After my report yesterday concerning the failure of Peter Mandelson, the Minister without Portfolio, to renew his car tax, his car has disappeared from the street outside his house, to the safety, one hopes, of off-street parking spaces. Only five more days till the clamps take hold, minister.

Role call

AT the age of 94, Sir John Gielgud has one more grand acting part in mind. He wants to play Sir George Sitwell, the eccentric father of Edith and Osbert Sitwell, friends of the youthful Gielgud. Sir John declared his ambition when he sat recently for a portrait by John Stanton Ward, which will hang in the Queen's private gallery of members of the Order of Merit. Gielgud was awarded the OM earlier this year.

"I spent two mornings with

him," said Ward, who is 80, from his home near Ashford in Kent. "but it would have been marvellous if it had been a hundred. I was having a left-handed conversation while my right was drawing. His enunciation was wonderful, but as I am deaf I had to concentrate like mad."

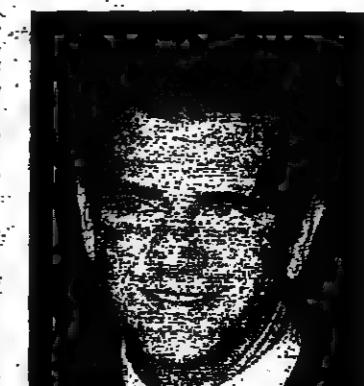
Labour's hands-on approach to government does not seem to

extend to its inquiry into the state of its Scottish members after the suicide of Gordon McMaster, the late MP for Paisley. Nick Brown, the Government Chief Whip, who is supposed to be overseeing the inquiry, has spent the past week as far from Paisley as is imaginable. Because of redecorating work in his offices in No 12 Downing Street, he has been lording it up in No 11 in the oak-panelled offices of the Chancellor of the Exchequer. No 11 is widely rated as the most salubrious address in Whitehall and is unoccupied while Gordon Brown holidays in America.

press gathered to bawl questions to the stars, a rather frazzled publicist pleaded with the assembled press corps not to ignore the film's director, Richard Donner.

"I know Mel's the draw card, but for purely political reasons, do you think you could direct a few token questions to Richard as well?" she asked. "It would make Mel happy too."

It was to no effect. Donner stood



frigidly as all screens, lenses and thrusting microphones were directed firmly at Gibson.

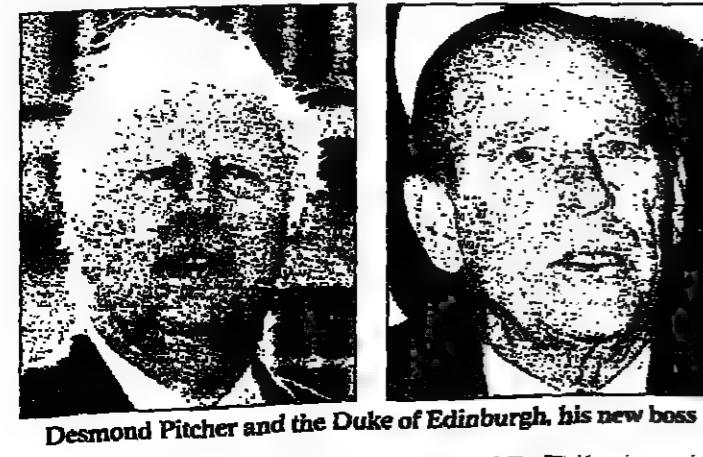
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P-H-S



Desmond Pitcher and the Duke of Edinburgh, his new boss



ABOVE SUSPICION

Peers should declare their financial interests

The long arm of the Committee on Standards in Public Life is now poised to extend into the House of Lords. Having illuminated the darkest corners of the House of Commons, then created a rigorous regulatory framework for MPs, Lord Nolan has devoted some of the summer recess to contemplating a similar review of standards in the Lords. He himself is eager to return to his career as a law lord, but his successor will find the Committee eager to turn its attention to the 'Other Place'. One of its members, Lord Shore of Stepney, has already given notice that he expects peers to abide by the new obligation on MPs to declare their financial interests.

Yet it seems that many members of the Lords would disagree. Some two hundred active peers have refused or omitted to declare their interests in the latest register. Their reasons for declining what has hitherto been largely a voluntary disclosure no doubt vary greatly. In the past, it has been left to the discretion of peers to decide whether an interest might 'affect the public perception of the way in which they discharge their parliamentary duties', and ought therefore to be made public. Baroness Thatcher, for example, may well believe that she has earned the trust of her peers; as she has long since ceased to hold political office, no vital public interest is damaged by her decision to exercise discretion.

Lord Parkinson's case is, however, quite different. By accepting the senior post of Chairman of the Conservative Party, he assumed certain obligations. The fact that he is in Opposition does not alter the fact that he wields power and patronage. Such a figure must be seen to be above suspicion. Not that he has any reason to fear transparency; his ten directorships are no secret. The boards on which he sits value his actual experience, not his potential influence. Declaring these directorships in the Lords' register was a mere formality, but one which

the Conservative Chairman would have been wiser to regard as his duty. His failure to do so has blunted his attack on Lord Simon of Highbury's similar oversight.

Lord Parkinson's omission is all the odder given that several of his former colleagues have declared their interests. Indeed, the multifarious skills and accumulated wisdom of the peers are the principal glory of their House. As the Commons becomes an ever more narrowly oligarchical body of professional politicians, the Lords' role as a scrutinising chamber positively requires them to retain a generous mixture of intelligent generalists and specialists from other walks of life. The more peers have outside interests, the more useful public servants they may be — provided they are frank about them.

For the Lords to pre-empt Lord Nolan and his committee may also be a matter of institutional survival. Though the Upper House has sometimes anticipated the Lower — notably in broadcasting debates — its palpable lack of transparency now seems anachronistic. True, the Other Place has seen little lobbying and no scandals; but this does not justify complacency. The election of a Labour Government, able to steamroller a constitutional revolution through the Commons, should scotch the argument that the Lords does not matter: it may yet become the real opposition.

Atites called the Lords 'a glass of champagne that has stood for five days'. The taxpayer will no longer pay for the best club in town. If the House of Lords is to preserve its distinctive character, while performing its proper function as a revising chamber, then it needs to show the Nolan committee that it can reform itself. Peers are legislators, and they should adhere to the same standards, including disclosure of interests, as MPs. To reformulate Action: all power tends to corrupt, and absolute openness is the only antidote.

OPAQUE IRAN

The new President may be powerless to effect real change

The composition of the Cabinet nominated yesterday by Mohammad Khatami, the new Iranian President, is disappointingly cautious. Those disappointed will include not only policymakers in the West, whose eagerness to identify Iranian 'moderates' has led them into embarrassing miscalculations in the past, but the millions of Iranians who cheered last May's sweeping election, victory of this mild-mannered cleric as a merited popular rebuke to the diehard cabals that run Iran's theocracy.

In Iran's medieval power structure, the shape of the Government is only one part of an equation which is impossible to calculate accurately because so much real power is wielded by unaccountable bodies such as the Council of Guardians and shadowy religious foundations. They answer to Iran's omnipotent spiritual leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who sets the broad domestic agenda, controls key appointments to the judiciary, armed forces and media and dominates foreign and defence policy.

But this Cabinet was Mr Khatami's first opportunity to show how serious he is about reforms. The emphasis on technocrats for the key domestic ministries will not be enough to impress Iranians; the outgoing President, Hashemi Rafsanjani, also had his 'California mafia'. The few identifiably liberal appointments in social portfolios will not make up for his failure to appoint a single female minister. Yet it would be premature to conclude that Iranians who long for more competent and tolerant government, and who believed his campaign promises to improve respect for the rule of law, champion women's rights, work for more social justice and allow greater latitude in private life, were wrong to vote for him.

The President has to submit his list to the Iranian Majlis. Its Speaker, Ali Akbar Nateq-Nouri, was spectacularly defeated in

the presidential race despite — or because of — being championed by Ayatollah Khamenei. The President must sense the knives at his back. An equally plausible explanation for this uninspiring debut, therefore, is that he dares not risk early public humiliation at the hands of the hidebound conservatives who dominate the Majlis.

He has reason to take his opponents seriously. They have already engineered the arrest, since the elections, of prominent liberals identified with him. But what such caution does indicate is that any easing of the repressive shackles of arbitrary power, exercised since the 1979 revolution in the name of religious dogma, will be both slow and all but invisible, even to Iranians.

At his inauguration ceremony, Mr Khatami held out at least half an olive branch to the outside world. He spoke of the importance of 'dialogue between civilisations' and 'detente' in Iran's foreign relations, and promised to 'avoid any action or behaviour causing tension'. In this, he speaks for the many Iranians who chafe at the inglorious isolation imposed on them.

These words are worth weighing, but in scales loaded with scepticism. There is no evidence that Iran has stopped bankrolling Islamic terror. The fatwa against Salman Rushdie, an outrageous affront to international law, still stands. Iran may be close to developing nuclear weapons and has, notably, yet to sign the protocol to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty that would permit effective inspections. In America, critics who contend that containment of Iran has failed can draw no cheer from the dismal collapse of Europe's efforts at 'constructive dialogue'. It is just possible that Mr Khatami is the interlocutor the world has been looking for since 1979; but Iran has too many scores against it for the West to be prodigal with carrots just yet.

EVIL EMPIRE

The Good, the Bad, and the British

A decent villain is hard to find nowadays. For more than 40 years the Cold War supplied Hollywood with an inexhaustible farrago of baddies. Communists and spies. But when the Berlin Wall came down, action movies lost more than just an evil empire: they lost all their Russian anti-heroes.

The Chinese, still spouting communist ideology, could perhaps stand in: but they were too inscrutable. The Germans were passe, apart from a lingering trace of the old Nazi in *Die Todesfahrt*. Sicilian Mafiosi had a brief, Oscar-winning run, but fell foul of the powerful Italian American lobby. Middle Eastern villains were promising but when Arab Americans went to court to file defamation suits over *The Crimson Jihad*, studio lawyers whispered into the ears of film moguls and the next five sequels were all cancelled. And so the movie-makers returned, after a deeply felt absence, to their favourite villains: the British.

A letter to *The New York Times* noted sardonically, whether it is history (*Michael Collins, Braveheart*), drama (*The Silence of the Lambs*), thriller (*The Devil's Own*) or children's animation (*The Lion King*), the men with the sinister leers and evil plans have all been British or had English accents. So imprinted is the stereotype that Britons have portrayed even American baddies (*Ant-*

hony Hopkins in Nixon) while British heroes such as Robin Hood or James Bond have been usurped by Americans or Irishmen.

This is splendid news. It continues a long tradition that gave such cut-glass British stars as Trevor Howard (*Mutiny on the Bounty*) and George Sanders (*Rebecca*) continuous employment. It has paved the way for Gary Oldman, Alan Rickman and Charles Dance to sneer, plot and double-cross their way across the screen. Even the children are again being brought up on horrible Brits. Who can forget Disney's serpentine, insinuating Sir Hiss, the only one in the Sheriff of Nottingham's entourage who had a Terry-Thomas English accent?

What, to British ears, is extraordinary is that every villain has an elegant, rounded vowels. It probably all goes back to 1776, when the heroic but simple American soul confronted King George's privileged officer class and won. There is something about British English that to American ears implies social grace, effortless superiority and high culture far above anything found in Connecticut or Kansas. How satisfying, therefore, to know that it is all a facade, that the Briton or screen is hypocrisy incarnate, a traitor and a coward. Of course he will know which fork to use at dinner. But is that not the ultimate intimidation?

Richard Harris.
5 Clovelly Park,
Hindhead, Surrey.
richardh@dv.com

Role of the CPS in high-profile trials

From His Honour Judge Morell

Sir, You report today that the acquittal of three footballers and a businessman of conspiring to fix Premier League matches is 'yet another blow to the beleaguered Director of Public Prosecutions, Dame Barbara Mills, QC'.

This view of the role of the Crown Prosecution Service, which has been reflected in press comment on the results of other high-profile trials recently, such as Maxwell, is misconceived, unfair and dangerous.

The duty of the CPS is enshrined in the Code for Crown Prosecutors: in cases where it judges the chances of a conviction as better than evens and a prosecution to be in the public interest, it must lay the facts before the court fairly and impartially. The duty of the advocate who prosecutes is to act as a minister of justice and not to strive officiously for a conviction.

Within such a framework, it is inevitable that a proportion of prosecutions result in acquittals: in 1996-97, 40 per cent in the Crown Court and 25 per cent in the magistrates' courts. To stigmatise these acquittals as 'blows' or 'defeats' for the CPS and its director implies that it should be enough for a conviction that it or she has decided to prosecute. In such an attitude lies the seed of tyranny.

Yours faithfully,
PETER R. MORRELL,
Judges Chambers,
Crown and County Court,
Crown Buildings, Rivergate,
Peterborough, Cambridgeshire.

From Mr Colin Slinn

Sir, The decision by Mr Justice McCullough not to allow the costs of the defendants acquitted in the match-fixing case (reports and leading article, August 9) would appear somewhat perverse.

It is true — as you quote Geoffrey Robertson, QC, as stating — that the trial judge has a discretion in relation to costs; however, this was a second trial for the accused. The jury in the first trial failed to reach a verdict and were discharged; it was then up to the Crown Prosecution Service to decide whether or not to put the same evidence to another jury in a new trial.

Having heard the defence evidence, the prosecution still went ahead, presumably in the public interest, with the second trial, thus incurring further substantial sums of public money. Surely the costs of this second trial, which could have been avoided if the prosecution had so wished, should not be paid by those acquitted. This would seem to put a high price on justice.

Yours faithfully,
COLIN SLINN,
29 Bridge Park
Rothsay, Bute, Strathclyde.
August 11.

Proper process of law

From Sir Anthony Grant

Sir, What business is it of the Prime Minister to order an investigation into the death of a Labour MP (report, August 4)?

The tragic death of Gordon McMaster, or anyone else in similar sad circumstances, is a matter for a fatal accident inquiry, should the local Procurator Fiscal's office call one and, if necessary, other courts.

Neither the Government nor Parliament should interfere with the proper process of law — nor pre-empt it — no matter how politically sensitive the issue.

Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY GRANT
(Conservative MP for
Cambridgeshire South West, 1983-97)
32 Beaufort Place,
Thompson Lane, Cambridge.
August 5.

Computers for Africa

From Mr Richard Harris

Sir, May I take issue with two points in your report on the demonstration in Botswana by the inventor, Trevor Bayliss, of the Apple E Mate handheld laptop computer powered by clockwork (details, later editions, July 30)?

You say the computer crashed after 16 minutes. I wasn't there, but as a rule when this type of computer runs out of its main battery it simply sleeps until it gets more power and, unlike a normal laptop, you don't lose whatever you are currently working on.

Also, you say that this laptop costs about £2,000. The E Mate is not yet generally available in Britain, but can be bought in the United States for US\$600-\$700 (approximately £400). It was designed for the US education market, but its simplicity and ruggedness make it potentially ideal for the developing world. At £400 rather than £2,000, it becomes a much more realistic proposition.

I'm not an employee of Apple, just a long-time user and analyst of mobile computing, currently evaluating the Apple E Mate for use in African conservation projects — it looks ideal.

Richard Harris.
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Mystery of the C. S. Lewis wardrobe

From Mr Christopher Whiteside

Sir, When the celestial copies of some of your recent issues arrived (Diary, July 25; letters, July 31 and August 4) I suspect Heaven's arches rang with the sound of C. S. Lewis roaring with laughter.

Those of your correspondents who have attempted to derive allegorical meanings, or explain the origin of *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe* should bear in mind the comments in Lewis's Christian writings, to the effect that everyone who tried to reconstruct the genesis of his books got it wrong.

Lewis used as an argument against liberal theologians who proposed allegorical interpretations of the Bible the contention that reviewers who employed similar techniques on books published by himself and his friends (such as J. R. R. Tolkien) had 'a record of one hundred per cent failure' (*Fern Seed and Elephants*, Collins, 1975).

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OBITUARIES

MAJOR-GENERAL FRANCIS SUGDEN

Major-General Francis Sugden, CB, CBE, Chief of Staff, the British Army of the Rhine, 1989-91, and Lieutenant Governor of the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, since 1992, died from cancer on August 6 aged 59. He was born on July 27, 1938.

Napoleon had his Berthier, Hindenburg his Ludendorff, and Montgomery his de Gaulle. Had Francis Sugden risen to the highest ranks of the Army during a major war, he might well have made history as the chief of staff and organiser of victory to a great commander. Fate decreed, however, that his talents should be used instead in finding sensible and balanced solutions to the organisational problems which beset the Army with the turbulent ending of the Cold War in the latter half of the 1980s.

Francis George Carter Sugden, the son of Major-General Sir Henry Sugden, the Engineer-in-Chief of the Army, 1957-60, had a penetrating intellect, which enabled him not only to find the optimum way through the most complex of problems, but also to present his solutions with a lucidity that helped to win their acceptance by his superiors. Unlike many men of clear vision and high intelligence, who do not suffer fools gladly, Sugden was a modest man with great charm and sense of humour, who drew the best out of people at all levels of society.

He first came to prominence in 1980 as Colonel, General Staff, to General Sir Nigel Bagnall (now Field Marshal Lord Bagnall) in HQ 1st British Corps in Germany. In the mid-1970s the Army Board had abolished the brigade level of command in British divisions in an endeavour to

reduce command overheads. It was a flawed decision, which was generally disliked by Nato allies and our own commanders. General Bagnall had the determination and strength of character to argue successfully with the Army Board for the return of brigades. Sugden was the staff officer who unravelled this piece of unsound organisation, re-established the brigades and helped to develop a new corps tactical doctrine.

He did more than this. General Bagnall was also keen to prove the practicability of the use of attack helicopters. Sugden was the staff officer responsible for the trials by 6th Brigade which at last persuaded the Army to adopt the air-mobility concept.

After a year's sabbatical at the Royal College of Defence Studies, he returned to 1st Corps as its Chief Royal Engineer and carried out the development and trials of armoured engineer close support of the brigades, which he had helped to recreate. It was during this time that he had great pleasure in hosting the Northern Army Group Exercise "Makefast", a demonstration of British engineer equipment to our Nato partners, started by his father when he was Chief Engineer NorthAG in the mid-1950s.

In 1986 he was brought back from Germany to the Ministry of Defence and given the key appointment of Director of Military Operations, again under Sir Nigel Bagnall, who was by then Chief of the General Staff. There he was faced with the intractable problems of Northern Ireland.

Three years later, in 1989, he was promoted major-general and appointed Chief of Staff to General Sir Peter Inge (now Field Marshal Lord Inge), the C-in-C British Army of the Rhine. There, just as the Berlin Wall started to crumble and the Cold War spluttered to its



close, BAOR was forced to face the challenge of the Defence Ministry's Options for Change.

The then Defence Secretary Tom King made his announcement of the required reductions on July 25, 1990: Saddam Hussein invaded Kuwait a week later. Sugden and his staff were faced with two diametrically opposite tasks.

With one hand, they had to meet the Treasury demand for a rapid "draw-down" (meaning withdrawal of surplus divisions) now that the Soviet

threat to Western Europe had evaporated; and with the other, they needed to mobilise and dispatch 1st Armoured Division for the Gulf War, which involved massive cannibalisation of other units for men, tanks and artillery to make good years of cuts.

The task of planning, co-ordinating and carrying through the enormously complex unit moves required, and the intricate redirection of men and equipment needed to fill gaps, fell upon Sugden's capable shoulders. His C-in-C gave

him full credit for the successful outcome.

Francis Sugden was a Manxman. One of his earliest memories was of waiting, at the age of five, on the dockside in Douglas harbour to see, for the first time, his father, then Brigadier Henry Sugden, who had just returned from the Middle East to take part in the invasion of Normandy. He was educated at Wellington College, but surprisingly failed to pass into Sandhurst, possibly being a late developer. Determined to follow his

father into the Army, he served as a National Service sapper until he was selected for the Royal Officer Cadet School.

Commissioned into the Royal Engineers in 1958, and after serving in a number of Engineer regiments in the UK, Germany and Norway, he was selected for the Staff College in 1969. He gained staff experience in the Ministry of Defence and with HQ 1st Corps in Germany before being given command of 22nd Engineer Regiment at Tidworth, going with it as part of the Commonwealth Ceasefire Monitoring Force to Rhodesia in 1980. It was from there that he became Colonel, General Staff, in HQ 1st Corps.

He retired from the Army in 1991, and went on to be Lieutenant Governor of the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, from 1992 until he died. He always considered this the happiest period of his life. Freed from the load of organisational problems, he achieved an immediate rapport with staff and In-Pensioners, and loved helping the old soldiers, several of whom had served with his father. As a keen gardener, his involvement in the Chelsea Flower Show each year doubled his enjoyment of his five years at the Royal Hospital.

One facet of his life, which all his senior commanders stressed, was his affection for his family, and the splendid example that he and his wife set in maintaining family values. Owing to various family tragedies, he effectively brought up ten children. He married Elizabeth Blackburn Bradbury, daughter of Surgeon Vice-Admiral Sir Eric Bradbury, in 1964. They had two sons and a daughter. The eldest son is a major in the Queen's Dragoon Guards and has been selected for the Staff College. All his family survive him.

THE RIGHT REV LANGTON FOX

The Right Rev Langton Fox, Auxiliary Bishop of Menevia, 1965-72, and Bishop, 1972-81, died on July 26 aged 80. He was born on February 21, 1917.

IT IS probably for his leading the recitation of the Lord's Prayer in Welsh at the Investiture of the Prince of Wales at Caernarfon Castle in 1969 that Bishop Langton Fox will principally be remembered. Tall and slim, he was a quietly commanding figure, standing off in his robes with his bishop's mitre on. What delighted the Welsh on that July day was that the language spoken by the bishop had the rich authentic tone of the Valleys.

He was not, though, himself Welsh at all. A priest who served with him for more than 30 years described him as "quintessentially the perfect English gentleman. Home Counties style". On his appointment as Auxiliary Bishop of Menevia he went to Aberystwyth to learn the language well enough to converse freely. He would take his dingly on the challenging cross roads and rough seas of the Solent. After six years at Chichester he returned to the seminary at Womersh as rector, but this lasted for only nine weeks before his appointment as Auxiliary Bishop of Menevia.

Fox's promotion to the episcopate came at an appropriate time for a man who liked a challenge and also to lead from the front. The Second Vatican Council, called by Pope John XXIII to open windows within the Roman Church, was just finishing. There were new guidelines on the liturgy, a major move from the use of Latin to English, the laity were to be involved more in the regular work of the Church, and ecumenism henceforth was to have a central place.

Fox moved these ideas forward with enthusiasm. It was his initiative that led to St John Lloyd School at Llanelli becoming a joint Roman Catholic/Anglican venture. He built up ecumenism at parish level rather than resorting to exhortations from on high and his undoubted success here led to international recognition when he was appointed a member of the Papal Secretariat for the Unity of Christians.

In the 1970s the bishops were concerned about the growth in England and Wales of the Charismatic Renewal Movement, a more open form of communal prayer, sometimes called "speaking with tongues". They appointed Bishop Fox as ecclesiastical assistant to the movement to keep a sharp eye out for any theological excesses. But they cannot quite have foreseen the result. He was so impressed by the energy of the movement and its appropriateness to the time that he joined it himself.

Bishop Fox's most lasting success was with young priests and seminarians. He always had time for them and they were generously welcomed at his table. He was appointed by the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales as president of their Commission for the Priesthood.

In the latter years of his retirement he suffered from a series of major illnesses beginning with hepatitis, which he caught when caring for his sister who contracted the illness visiting Algeria. But he never gave up. Having lost the use of his right arm, he taught himself to write with his left. Recently he lost a leg. He died during his afternoon nap at Nazareth House, Wrexham.



PERSONAL COLUMN



Sir Tom Normanton, Conservative MP for Cheadle, 1970-87, and Member of the European Parliament, 1979-89, died on August 6 aged 80. He was born on March 12, 1917.

TOM NORMANTON was the last Tory politician to sit simultaneously as an MP at Westminster and an MEP at Strasbourg. In 1984 seven of the eight who were also Mem-

bers of the European Parliament decided to retire to their base in the Commons, but Normanton, ignoring Margaret Thatcher's well-publicised dislike of this dual role, refused to follow them.

Since he was a passionate European and a man of an independent turn of mind, this decision was entirely in character. When he was challenged about whether his duties in Strasbourg, Luxembourg and Brussels were not inhibiting his responsibilities

at Westminster, he pointed out that in 11 years as an MEP he had missed only one three-line whip in the Commons, and that was through illness.

After his retirement from the House in 1987 he continued as an MEP, only to be defeated in the 1989 European elections. Even then he continued to travel to Strasbourg occasionally, taking advantage of the rule that after serving for more than ten years he qualified as an honorary member of the par-

liament, entitled to attend, though not to speak or vote.

He was born into the Lancashire cotton industry and remained a textiles man all his life. His father was a cotton manufacturer, and after leaving Manchester Grammar School and Merton College, Normanton went straight into the family group of textile companies.

He spent much of his spare time training as a Territorial subaltern, and went to France with the British Expeditionary Force. He was wounded at Calais but managed to get back to England. Later, in North Africa, he was on the staff of the First and Eighth Armies, and he returned to Europe with Montgomery to serve in Intelligence.

In civilian life he immediately became involved in textiles and politics again. He had been chairman of the Conservative association at Merton College, and after leaving university he became chairman of Rochdale Council and the unsuccessful candidate for Rochdale in the 1959 and 1964 general elections.

In 1970 he captured Cheadle from the Liberals, scoring a notable victory over Dr Michael Winstanley, the future Lord Winstanley, who had been a prominent and popular MP. With some help from boundary changes Cheadle became a true blue member of the European Community can hardly have been an asset in her eyes. It was to Mrs Thatcher, however, that he owed his knighthood in 1987 — though for long-serving Tory MPs in her era a "K" tended to come up with the ratings.

He was a leading spokesman for the Lancashire textiles industry, being a council member of the British Textiles Employers' Association for many years and its president in 1970-71. He was also president of the International Federation of Cotton and Allied Textiles Industries. He had considerable interests outside his own industry and was at one time chairman or director of 14 different companies. He was also a long-term member of the council of the CBI.

He was married in 1942 to Annabel Yates and she survives him with their two sons and daughter.

PUBLIC NOTICES

CHARITY COMMISSION

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT

OF A CHIEF STAFF

TO THE CHIEF STAFF

FOR THE CHIEF STAFF

Will all radio one day be commercial?

Siren voices lure more of the BBC's listeners

One of life's minor embarrassments is the press conference where there are no questions. Worse is the press conference where no journalists turn up at all, or where the two or three who do are outnumbered by those on the platform all dressed up for their "presentation" and smilingly eager to defend it.

The most obvious reason why silence greeted the call for questions at the quarterly results announcement last week of RAJAR, the agency which does joint research for commercial radio and the BBC, was numbness. The press had so burnt itself out on the subject of Radio 1's previous week that statements about percentage points, proving this or that were as welcome as a year's supply of tapes of *Thought for the Day*.

Another explanation for the hacks' unresponsiveness was that the big news in the numbers — that the audience for Radio 1 has dropped below ten million for the first time in 30 years — has been utterly predictable since Chris Evans left in January. And the big question (well, someone did finally find voice to ask it) will Radio 4's shake-up of its schedules have the same damaging effect of driving away a loyal audience, is unanswerable. Not until the end of next year will there be even a glimpse of the audience's reaction.

Yet when you think of it, silence means respect. That is the only appropriate reaction to a battery of statistics. Three months is a very short time in a life of a radio listener. Tiny quivers in RAJAR quarterly results keep both commercial and non-commercial sides of the industry awake at night for a very good reason. They may indicate seismic changes to come.

What to make of the RAJAR revelation between the end of March and the end of June commercial radio took its highest ever share of listeners? It's 50.2 per cent pushed the BBC to 47.4 per cent, well below the 50 per cent mark which the BBC feels can more comfortably justify its licence fee. One interpretation is that the BBC and commercial radio simply take turns hopping back and forth over the 50 per cent line. But looking back farther, the graph of changes looks like one of those on the walls of boardrooms in *New Yorker* cartoons — straight down.

At the end of 1992 the BBC held 60 per cent of the national radio audience. If you're willing to go back to 1972, of course, you can get an even starker graph: BBC 100 per cent advertising-supported radio, zero. It is not hard to foresee the day when the graph could be totally reversed and all radio becomes commercial radio.



BRENDA MADDOX

But the British listener does not live in a *New Yorker* environment. There is a special pleasure — 75 years old, to judge from celebrations coming up — to be had from radio stations that do not take time out for commercials, singing or otherwise. And the BBC services that show extraordinary stability. Radio 3 and 4, are, unlike Radio 1, unduplicated on the other side. That Radio 3 has held steady at 5 per cent (of the audience over 15 that tunes in at least once a week) in the face of Classic FM's stronger appeal is proof of its strength. Classic FM, with double the reach, has the world's top favourites, but Radio 3 has the Proms.

Rivals could be creeping up on Radio 4's and Radio 5 Live's preserve of news and good talk. London News Radio is celebrating this week because that its reconstruction in the past year is paying off. Relaunching the old LBC and pairing it with a rolling-news station, News Direct, which gives news in sharp 15-minute segments, has worked very well. The company's new owners, including ITN, Reuters and the *Daily Mail*, have now put in a bid for the North West regional radio licence. If rolling-news does well against the London-orientated Today in London, how much better might it do in a region which does not like to be reminded of London all the time?

But these stations are local radio. Commercial radio's development has been just the opposite of the BBC's — local first, national later, much later. Commercial local radio now is clearly dominant over the BBC's variety, by 41. Does this mean that localism is the wave of the future? Probably not. It shows merely that local stations are cheap to start up and their advertisements are of interest to a locally minded audience.

The station to watch, in the light of the Radio 4 renovation, is Talk Radio. It is national and commercial and unlike the others in its kind — Classic Virgin and Atlantic 252 — is devoted to interesting talk, not music. RAJAR shows that its listeners (2.2 million a week) stay tuned longer than to the other commercial nationals.

So the BBC is right to be worried about national commercial competition — even if the radical remedies to which it seems addicted are the wrong ones. The BBC has the reputation and the resources for its national radio networks to hold onto the legacy of the monopoly years for a long time.

The British listener is a very conservative creature. It changes its habits very slowly, even when young. The 9.7 million a week still tuning to Radio 1, even without Chris Evans, prove it.

The Client's Story



Younger women wonder whether it is safe for them to wear a Tampon overnight.

TAMPAX

THE CLIENT: Magdalena Tzare, 33, Marketing Director UK and Ireland, Tampax Ltd.

WHAT OTHER CAMPAIGNS HAVE YOU BOUGHT? I am from Sweden. I have worked on Croft Sherry and Haagen-Dazs ice-cream in this country.

THE PRODUCT: Tampax tampons

THE AGENCY: FCB.

WHAT'S THE PLOT? Various women discuss their concerns about using a tampon overnight. The advice of an independent authority reassures them.

WAS IT EXPENSIVE? It cost £100,000. Very fair.

AT WHOM IS IT AIMED? Younger women, 19 to 34. That's when you make up your mind and become brand loyal.

WHAT'S THE STRATEGY? We realised that the toxic shock scare was growing in people's minds. It wasn't enough to say we have confidence in our product.

AH, SO IT'S ALL ABOUT TOXIC SHOCK? Yes. Consumers had this niggling thought. We decided it was important enough to change everything: our packaging, leaflets, our educational programmes.

WEREN'T YOU WORRIED ABOUT SOUNDING PATRONISING? No. We

did a lot of research — five focus groups. Five hundred women looked at the ads, and we talk to 4,000 women every year.

BUT AREN'T YOU TELLING WOMEN WHAT THEY ALREADY KNOW? No. We have two different types of consumers. Older women who are settled in their habits use the product overnight and don't even think about it; but women of 19-22 growing up during the toxic shock scare, and have felt confused and misinformed.

DO YOU LOOK AT OTHER IDEAS? We did try Dawn French. Younger women liked her but it didn't work for all ages.

WHAT'S SOLD THIS SCRIPT TO YOU? The absolute tone of voice. Really young women could relate to the women asking the questions — I'm not alone in this worry. Older women relate to the women with the answers.

WHAT'S THE BEST CAMPAIGN YOU'VE EVER BOUGHT? This is looking like it. Tampax has struggled because of health concerns. We had to face that: We used to use glamorous women. This is a complete U-turn. That's why it's making such an impact.

AND THE WORST? The previous Tampax campaign, *Body Language*. It was awful. It completely missed the way. It showed beautiful, skinny women running around the beach and the street. It provoked us to rethink.

DAVID MCGRAH

Political ads lack fizz

Election ads were tame and forgettable, says David McGrath

Chris Powell, chief executive of Labour's agency DDB/BMP, agrees: "The Tories were veering all over the place." But he refuses to concede that Labour suffered the same problem. "Our strategy was boringly consistent: We went on and on about tax."

Think about it. Millions of pounds later, how many of those posters and party political broadcasts that ran over the past three years can you actually remember? Er, the red eyes. Good. But who were they for? Er, the Tories? Correct, well remembered (although MORI research at the time suggested that 4 out of 5 people were less likely to vote Tory as a result of this ad).

Any more? Remember, we're talking about £40 million in advertising here. Give up? What about the Tory lion with the red tear in his eye? (Unfortunately, DRSM research concluded that most people thought it was for Labour.) Tony and John as Punch and Judy for the Lib Dems. "17 years under the Tories. Enough is enough." "New Labour, new taxes." And on and on.

According to estimates, new Labour spent £26 million to get elected, £13 million of it in the past 12 months, at a cost of £1.65 a vote. The Tories spent £20 million in the past 12 months alone — more than £2 for each vote. Tango spends about £10 million a year.

Why are the parties so hopeless at using the skills of the ad agencies to promote themselves? Dominic Field, business director on the Tango account at HHCL, says: "I suspect, as with all big corporations, the problem is they find it hard to agree what they stand for."

Once Tango hit upon "You know when you've been Tango'd" six years ago they stuck with it. All successful campaigns do the same.

Political accounts are often nightmares for creative people

Then there was the series of Labour posters featuring drawings of John Major based on the Mr Men cartoons. Despite favourable reception, the campaign was canceled.

The net result? Millions of pounds of party funds squandered on barely forgettable, brightly coloured posters like "More jobs for young people" and "Britain deserves better".

Will the lessons ever be learned? Not according to Nicole Kleeman, account manager on the Labour account. "Labour are not like other advertisers, they're a political party. They're not interested in testing ads. They are more interested to see people's reactions to news stories." Asked to comment on Tory research, the Saatchi source whispered: "A, I can't and b, I won't."

At least there are some signs that Labour seems to be thinking ahead. They've launched their summer slogan, "Modern, strong & fair". Hmmm. Think we'll remember that 100 days from now?

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A word from the mother of all mothers

US agony aunt Dr Laura Schlessinger is heading for London, reports Giles Whittell

Snivellers, slackers, adulterers and neglectful parents, brace yourselves or turn off your radios. Dr Laura Schlessinger, America's favourite radio schoolmarm, wants to begin broadcasting in London. She is negotiating with several stations, her handlers say, and her daily blitz on the morals of her callers is expected to 'hit the capital's airwaves in the autumn.'

But no London stations are admitting it. Talks with Capital Radio have so far proved inconclusive and LBC has not been approached. Anyway, how Dr Schlessinger would be received by Londoners is open to question.

Here in America she was in action last week talking to 'Elizabeth', a caller to her show in Los Angeles who confessed to harbouring 'an extreme amount of hatred for a woman who had an affair with my husband'. Dr Schlessinger retorts: 'What she did was extremely slimy and crappy. But what your husband did was unbelievable. He was the one who was willing to destroy his family for some fun.'

Dr Schlessinger suggested that Elizabeth had shifted all her hate onto the other woman in order to be able to forgive her husband. Elizabeth still thought her feelings were justified.

Dr Schlessinger: 'You want to give her capital punishment, right?'

Elizabeth: 'Yeah.'

Dr Schlessinger: 'Then your husband should die first.'

In the dysfunctional family of American talk show hosts, Dr Laura, as she likes to be called, has cast herself as the mother of all mothers.

She brings impressive credentials to her job: a physiology Ph D, a post-doctoral certificate in marriage and family counselling and 12 years' private practice as a therapist. But she wears them lightly. In her boiled-down value system, children's needs, especially the intactness of their parents' marriage, are paramount. Last year *Forbes* magazine summed up Dr Schlessinger's rules of thumb: 'Premarital sex? Better have a ring and a wedding date first. Divorce? Not when there are children. Abortion? Only if the mother's life is threatened. Adultery? Read the Ten Commandments.'

Plenty of American talk shows are peddling similarly

old-fashioned prescriptions for personal improvement because they often make sense and they do wonders for ratings. Dr Schlessinger, differs in steering clear of politics and daring to give instant solutions to the toughest, most personal dilemmas, drivetime radio can serve up.

One example: a couple want kids, but both are working and neither can afford to quit. 'Don't have children if you're not going to take care of them. Get a parakeet and put a towel over the cage instead.'

Simple. And great radio. The Dr Schlessinger show is carried by more than 400 stations across North America, drawing 18 million listeners a week and 50,000 callers per programme. In terms of ratings she is the number two radio personality in the US, trailing Rush Limbaugh, and number one in Canada. She has squeezed Oliver North from the prime evening drivetime slot in his home market of Washington, DC, and has expanded her radio success into a lucrative multimedia empire.

Her books, *Jan Stupid Things Women Do To Mess Up Their Lives* and *How Could You Do That?*, have both been *New York Times* bestsellers. The same fate doubtless awaits *The Stupid Things Men Do To Mess Up Their Lives*, due out in September.

Her columns are syndicated to 55 newspapers. Her fans wear Dr Laura hats and T-shirts. Her monthly newsletter can be had for \$39.95 (about £25) a year. She made \$7 million (about £4.3 million) last year.

Dr Schlessinger does not believe in self-esteem. She is just listen quietly, bemused, phone firmly off the hook.

But the Americans may already be ahead of themselves. It remains to be seen if Londoners will throw themselves into Dr Schlessinger's shock therapy with the self-flagellatory zeal of their transatlantic cousins. They might just listen quietly, bemused, phone firmly off the hook.

terrified about what she would say. I don't feel sorry for people who ring because they know what they are going to get.

'We've all spent so long blaming people's problems on low self-esteem, their childhood or their fathers and mothers. Dr Schlessinger's usual advice to 'buck up and get on with it' is sometimes best.'

OLIVER JAMES, clinical psychologist and broadcaster: 'People respond to clear, unequivocal instructions, as opposed to advice. It is sometimes dangerous to give advice without understanding the full context of a person's problems but her brand of certainty-through-simplicity is bound to score points.'

VIRGINIA IRONSIDE, agony aunt and author: 'I wouldn't phone her as I'd be



Agony aunt Dr Laura Schlessinger — "the chief moral arbiter of the Nineties"

HOW WILL THE BRITISH TAKE DR LAURA'S ADVICE?

CLAIRE RAYNER, broadcaster, agony aunt and author: 'I find it a bit disturbing when adults need a schoolmarm figure to wrap them over the knuckles with her cane.'

'The public may like her, but I suspect they'll fall about laughing without her knowing why.'

OLIVER JAMES, clinical psychologist and broadcaster: 'People respond to clear, unequivocal instructions, as opposed to advice. It is sometimes dangerous to give advice without understanding the full context of a person's problems but her brand of certainty-through-simplicity is bound to score points.'

VIRGINIA IRONSIDE, agony aunt and author: 'I wouldn't phone her as I'd be

terrified about what she would say. I don't feel sorry for people who ring because they know what they are going to get.'

'We've all spent so long blaming people's problems on low self-esteem, their childhood or their fathers and mothers. Dr Schlessinger's usual advice to 'buck up and get on with it' is sometimes best.'

ZELDA WEST-MEADS, Relate marriage counsellor, psychosexual therapist and *Mail on Sunday* agony aunt: 'Many people who seek advice want to be given quick answers and told what to do when it is often more productive to get people to think things through for themselves.'

PETER FOSTER

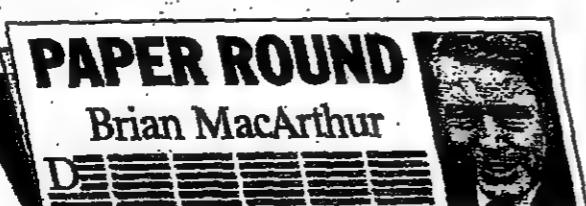
Diana: mover and shaker

The answer to both questions is yes, she does. Yes, stories about Diana, Princess of Wales, really do move newspapers off the newsagents' shelves — and, yes, they do damage the standing of the monarchy.

At least 750,000 extra national newspapers have been sold on the three days that exclusive photographs of the Princess with Dodi Fayed have appeared in *The Mail on Sunday* (twice), *Sunday Mirror*, *The Sun* and *Daily Mail*. No other person on earth, as *The Sun's* Editor Stuart Higgins says, excites the interest of readers as much: 'There is an absolute fascination with her that never wanes from our readers' point of view.' He ought to know: sales of *The Sun* rose by 175,000 on Monday when it published seven pages of the Diana-Dodi pictures.

August is a wicked month for the embattled circulation directors of the three mass-market national tabloids. Year on year their sales in July were down by 290,000. With millions of buyers abroad on holiday, sales usually dip still further in August, even though the start of the soccer season offers some consolation. Yet so far this August the summer slump has failed to occur.

The Princess has been particularly significant in the developing battle for supremacy between *The Mail on Sunday* and the *Sunday Mirror*. Just as broadsheets only exceptionally outsell any of the tabloids, so middle-mar-



ket tabloids — the *Mail* and *Express* — only rarely outsell the red tops (although the upmarket *Sunday Times* outsells the mid-market *Express on Sunday* and *The Mail on Sunday* ourselves).

The Mail on Sunday responded with its own front-page picture of the Princess and Fayed and held on to at least 100,000 of the extra sales it achieved a week earlier, but the *Sunday Mirror* pushed ahead again. Yet with sales on a roll, it seems inevitable that *The Mail on Sunday* will eventually overtake the *Sunday Mirror* where sales have fallen by more than 100,000 since January.

Apart from *The Sun*, the rest of the pickings on Monday morning went to the *Daily Mail*, which published eight pages of pictures and commentary and achieved a sales boost of about 35,000. The *Daily Mail* now has the *Sunday Mirror* in its sights: *The Mirror* is only 12,000 ahead. On Monday, beaten by its Sunday sister, *The Mirror* wrapped its front page with a lottery giveaway, declared the real front page Diana-free, devoted it to a thalidomide

news 5p price increase. The result was stunning. Its scoop, headlined 'The Kiss', showed the Princess for the first time in an apparent clinch with Fayed and was followed by another ten pages

of pictures inside. At almost a pound per new buyer, sales increased by about 265,000 to 2.47 million.

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An accompanying leading article in *The Guardian*, headlined 'The People's Revolt', argued for the first time in any national daily that British monarchism was quite literally dying. 'It is time for Britain's conviction republicans to abandon the political closet and make their strongest case: our poll shows they have a ready following.'

Shifts of opinion of momentous proportions often go unnoticed. That leading article, in the paper most associated with the ambitions of new Labour, may be one.

THE LISTENER

THE NEWS BEHIND THE HEADLINES

Hack's hackles rise

ioned newspaper spike, sits in the newsroom and each time someone sees a picture of a model they fancy they spear it on the spike. At the end of the month the woman with most appearances is picked.

The Listener hopes the practice was not invented by *Maxim*'s owner, the hippy media tycoon Felix Dennis who admits to having a harem of women, but is unable to choose between them.



D'Argy Smith: temptation?

MARCELLE'S RETURN IS Marcelle D'Argy Smith about to be tempted back into the rancorous world of women's magazines? Rumours are gathering pace that the former editor of *Cosmopolitan* is being courted to edit the more sedate *Woman's Journal*. Inquiries to the office are met with a sharp intake of breath. 'It is definitely a rumour but at the moment we don't know what's happening,' said one insider. 'Will you let us know if you find out?'

First-name terms AWARD for silliest question of the week goes to Kim Sengupta. *The Independent's* suave reporter who followed the trip of Diana, Princess of Wales, to Bosnia. Reporters were told at a briefing that the family of a girl being visited by the Princess were Muslims. 'Yes, but what are their Christian names?' piped up Sengupta. He was ignored by the aid worker but not by his fellow journalists, who teased him mercilessly for the rest of the trip.

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NEWS

Inflation reaches two-year high

Gordon Brown's determination to keep a tight grip on the economy was dealt a severe blow when inflation reached 3.3 per cent, the highest level for nearly two years.

A High Street spending spree, higher mortgage costs and petrol price rises contributed to the sharp increase in the headline rate from 2.9 per cent, busting the Chancellor's target for the second month running..... Page 1, 23

Gulf syndrome campaigner dies at 30

A campaigner for official action on "Gulf War syndrome" has died aged 30. Paul Carr of the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers suffered a brain tumour, bloated joints and liver problems. His main concern, however, was for his two daughters who both have rare heart conditions. He believed he had passed on to them something he picked up in the Gulf..... Page 1

Royal photo call

For the first time since his honeymoon, the Prince of Wales invited photographers to Balmoral and posed with Prince William and Prince Harry on the first day of their holiday..... Page 1

Mid-air crash

A motorised glider pilot had the cap knocked from his head by a helicopter rotor blade as they collided in mid-air over Yorkshire. Both aircraft made emergency landings after which the 65-year-old glider pilot, who escaped with a cut hand, declined a lift to hospital in a helicopter..... Page 1

Bugging rules

A draft code of conduct allowing police to break in to homes or offices and bug suspects was attacked by lawyers as a licence to spy..... Page 2

'Vicar' exposed

A bogus bishop tricked the public out of £250,000 at charity pub concerts where he appeared as The Singing Vicar. David Valentine was exposed when he was seen kissing one of his "singing nuns"..... Page 3

Ivy League leads

High-earning professionals prefer to recruit from an "Ivy League" of traditional universities, according to a survey of employers. Solicitors, barristers, accountants and bankers all take most of their trainees from Oxford, Cambridge and Bristol..... Page 4

Uproar as everything stops for tea

A signalman abandoned his box and went home for a cup of tea, leaving two trainloads of passengers stuck on the Carlisle to Settle line. There was no water in the box when he arrived at 6am and by 10.50, he decided he could take no more of the 80F heat and left. The passengers were also parched: the buffet cars were closed because the caterers did not turn up..... Page 5

Oppenheimer: The Oppenheimer family is to resume management control of De Beers, the world's largest diamond mining group, after 13 years..... Page 23**Swiss banks: The financial predator Martin Ebner has turned his firepower back on Union Bank of Switzerland, one of the country's top three banks..... Page 23****Utilities: Sir Desmond Pitcher's reign as executive chairman of United Utilities is set to end after he bowed to pressure from institutional investors..... Page 23****Markets: The FT-SE 100 Index rose 43.9 points to close at 5075.8. Sterling's trade-weighted index fell from 102.1 to 101.7 after a fall from \$1.5904 to \$1.5781 and from DM2.9489 to DM2.9384. Page 26****Presley package****The American National Archives has discarded its studio image to release copious details of President Nixon's meeting with Elvis Presley in 1970..... 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Antiquated formula proving hard to digest

By ERIC REGGIE

READER'S DIGEST, the most widely read magazine in the world, has always been a master of condensation. Editors seamlessly reduced whole books to a few pages. In a country famous for the gnat-like attention span of its inhabitants, this formula, combined with "God-Country-Family" values, worked. Millions and fortunes rolled in decade after decade.

In recent years, the company, has become expert at another form of condensation — that of profits. Since 1994, earnings and revenues have been in free fall, taking the shares down with them. With the market valuation halved, angry investors have been calling for a shake-up.

The shares duly rose more than 52 to \$28 (£16.50), but Wall Street is not convinced the worst is over. Karen Ficker, an analyst with Furman Selz in Manhattan, said: "We've been frustrated by more than a year over management's inability to turn the company around."

Reader's Digest

The organisation's problems are further evidence that even the mighty can fall, raging bull market or not. Dow Jones, owner of *The Wall Street Journal*, another famous name in American publishing, is going through a similar crisis.

Reader's Digest is the victim of demographics — its geriatric readership profile means it

forgettable Shirley Temple". The rest of the empire is not faring well either. Its much larger direct-mail business, which sells books, videos and CDs, has stalled and analysts say the company has done little to exploit its international database of 100 million names, an asset that any large retailer would find invaluable.

There was a time when *Reader's Digest* paid little attention to profitability. Founded in 1922 with a \$600 investment, *Reader's Digest* treated its employees well and gave away most of its money. Employees were driven to work in company buses and did not have to work on Fridays in May so that gardens could be tended. The headquarters, in Chappaqua, New York, are still decorated

with Chagalls and Matisses in what has been called the corporate world's finest collection of Impressionist art.

Two charitable trusts control the company — voting shares were sold to the public in 1990 — and institutions such as the Lincoln Center in New York and the Bronx Zoo have been the recipients of hundreds of millions of dollars.

Reader's Digest is an old business with old ideas. But it remains one of the world's best-known brand names and its international reach is impressive. Almost half of its sales are in Europe. Unless the company can find an executive team to rejuvenate the business, *Reader's Digest* risks becoming a quaint relic of the 20th century.

Healthcare cuts knock Smith & Nephew

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

CUTS in government spending on healthcare across Europe are hitting Smith & Nephew which is also continuing to feel the impact of the strong pound.

The company, which makes Elastoplast plasters, skin products, artificial knees and hip joint surgery equipment, said that sales on the Continent were flat in the first half as Germany, France and Italy curbed health spending as part of their drive to qualify for European monetary union. A year ago, European sales showed a 5 per cent rise.

Chris O'Donnell, chief executive, said he expected to see a slight improvement in European sales in the second half.

The strong pound knocked

£11 million from profits in the first half and will have a similar effect in the second half of the year. As a result, in the six months to June 28, pre-tax profit was £81.1 million, compared with £91.0 million a year ago. At constant exchange rates, underlying sales were up 5 per cent.

Analysts said that pharmaceutical companies were being hit less hard by the healthcare budget cuts in Europe as hospitals were bearing the brunt of the cuts. That meant sales of products such as artificial limbs were being affected rather than those of drugs, which were supplied mainly by general practitioners whose budgets were, as yet, relatively untouched.

Sales in America, which were down 3 per cent a year ago because of pricing pressure from powerful hospital groups, have shown signs of recovery. Sales were down 1 per cent in the first half, but were now "trending upwards", Mr O'Donnell said.

The company is attempting to bring in selective price rises, but it is not yet sure whether they will stick. At present the US accounts for 40 per cent of group earnings, but that proportion could rise with the launch of Dermagraft, a new treatment for food ulcers suffered by diabetics.

It is still waiting for Food and Drug Administration approval for Dermagraft. Mr O'Donnell said that Dermagraft would cost the company £6 million in total this year to develop. Its launch in the UK is scheduled in October and the company is hoping for worldwide sales of £150 million in 2001.

Mr O'Donnell said that Smith & Nephew was continuing to look for acquisition opportunities and could spend up to £300 million on a single purchase. Any large acquisition would probably be in the UK, US or Europe and would be in the orthopaedic, keyhole surgery, or wound-treatment areas. He declined to discuss speculation that the company had approached Roche, the Swiss pharmaceuticals group, to buy DePuy, the artificial limb maker.

Adjusted earnings per share in the first half were 5.42p. The company will pay a 2.4p foreign income dividend (2.2p) on December 10.

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Brick by brick: Barbara Moorhouse, finance director, and John Morgan, chief executive of Morgan Sindall, the construction group, which yesterday reported a 48 per cent jump in pre-tax profits for

the six months to June 30, from £2.22 million to £3.28 million. Turnover rose 43.6 per cent, from £112.7 million to £161.9 million, and earnings per share rose 29 per cent, from 5.52p to 7.12p. The

company blamed problems with its refurbishing business on over-expansion. The business has been refocused at a cost of about £500,000. A dividend of 1.67p, compared with 1.35p, is due on October 1

BOC profits hit by strength of pound

By PAUL DURMAN

BOC GROUP, the gases company that recently put its healthcare business up for sale, yesterday became the latest victim of the strong fall. Reporting a small fall in its nine-months' profits,

Although underlying sales rose 5 per cent and pre-tax profits by 10 per cent, the sterling impact cut the reported total from £27.3 million to £25.4 million. Sales in the nine months to June 30 fell by 7.5 million to £2.92 billion. BOC's shares slipped 25p to 1145p.

The company estimated that sterling cost it about £33 million in lost profits. £30 million of this because of the

translation of overseas earnings. Tony Isaac, finance director, suggested the total full-year cost could rise to nearly £5 million.

Danny Rosenkranz, chief executive, said BOC was seeing a lot of interest in Ohmeda, the healthcare business based around anaesthetic gases and equipment. BOC expects to receive preliminary bids around the end of this month, and hopes to complete the sale by Christmas.

The business contributed £35.2 million, a 2 per cent decline excluding currencies. Profits from medical devices were also damaged by exchange rate movements.

Celtic consoles fans with City success

By CHRIS AYRES

CELTIC Football Club might have disappointed in the Scottish Premier League last season, but its performance in the City will have given consolation to fans who are investors.

In the year to June, Celtic turned a pre-tax loss of £1 million into a profit of £5.1 million on turnover of £22.2 million, up nearly 40 per cent from £16 million in the previous period. Earnings per share were £15.93 — compared to a loss of £3.49 — although investors will still not be paid a dividend.

Fergus McCann, chairman of Celtic, reassured fans that the club's profits would be invested in new players. "Front-

ball success will come hand in hand with our success as a business," he said. His promise was immediately followed by the purchase of Regal Blinds from Sheffield Wednesday for £4.5 million.

The club also reported that attendances rose 37 per cent to almost 1.7 million last year, with sales of season tickets staying the highest at any British club.

Celtic's merchandising sales also continued to grow, reflecting the club's recent three-year sponsorship deal with Umbro. Celtic is now planning to build a retail megastore alongside a Celtic museum and visitors' centre.

Bula investor calls for inquiry

From EILEEN McCABE
IN DUBLIN

A SHAREHOLDER of Bula Resources, the troubled Irish exploration company, yesterday called for its affairs to be investigated after a series of disastrous escapades in Russia.

She along with several other shareholders at the company's packed annual general meeting in a Dublin hotel demanded that board members vigorously pursue their investigations into the multimillion pound losses suffered by

the company as a result of its Russian assets. Earlier, Tom Fitzpatrick, Bula's chairman, told shareholders that the company had submitted a £109 million (£5.5 million) claim against Goulands, the London solicitors, which advised the company on its failed transaction with Aki-Ogry, the Russian group, in 1994. Goulands has been invited to respond by August 29 after which Bula says legal proceedings will start in London.

He also revealed that the board has

still not managed to discover the identity of the beneficial owner of the Mir Oil company, with which Bula agreed to develop the controversial Salvenskoye oilfield in Russia in 1995. Mr Fitzpatrick said that at the time of the deal, Jim Stanley, then Bula's chairman and chief executive, gave written confirmation that he or no party connected with him had any interest in Mir.

So far Bula has discovered that a South African resident who was named as the owner of Mir at the time of the deal is no longer the owner. Investigations are continuing, he said. Glowing test results at Salvenskoye were also found to be incorrect.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Alpha Airports names chief executive

ALPHA AIRPORTS, the duty free shops and air catering group part owned by Mohamed Al Fayed, has at last found a replacement for Paul Harrison, the chief executive who quit in April. Kevin Abbot, a director of Rexair, will take on the role from October 1. Mr Abbot, 43, has worked at Rexair since 1994, initially running international packaging and then global food and beverages packaging. He earlier spent 16 years at Redland, where he was a main board director from 1988 to 1994.

Rodney Galpin, chairman of Alpha Airports, said that Mr Abbot was selected because of his background in marketing and his knowledge through Redland, of Asian markets.

Sweet smell of success

ESTEE LAUDER, the cosmetics and fragrances company, reported higher earnings for the fourth quarter and full fiscal year, citing strong sales in all of its brands. For the year to June 30, sales rose 6 per cent, to \$3.4 billion (£2 billion) from \$3.2 billion last time. Excluding the impact of foreign currency translation, net sales increased 4 per cent during the year. Earnings rose to \$197.6 million, or \$1.46 a share, from \$102.9 million. Comparable per-share figures were not available, as the company went public in November, 1995.

Lloyd's conversion plan

STACE BARR, the Lloyd's members agency, yesterday issued the prospectus for its plan to convert traditional names to limited liability underwriting. Under the scheme, developed with the Angerstein Lloyd's fund, names will hold shares in a new underwriting vehicle after giving over their rights to participate on syndicates. Names will make their funds at Lloyd's available for continued underwriting, while Angerstein will make money available to meet a change in capital requirements at the insurance market.

Easynet confident

EASYNET, Britain's second-largest Internet access provider, said it will break into profit in the last three months of the year, after generating a portfolio of high-paying business customers. The company, which has been in the red since its inception three years ago, failed to stem interim losses in the first six months of the year with a pre-tax loss of £724,000 (£727,000) on sales that grew from £2.48 million to £1.55 million. Its shares, which joined the Alternative Investment Market at 79p in March last year, fell 45p to 79p.

Saracen approached

SARACEN VALUE, the smaller companies investment trust, yesterday said it has been approached by fund managers wanting to outsource the current team. The Saracen board on Monday met HSBC Asset Management, which claims to have the support of 50 per cent of Saracen shareholders for its bid to replace SFM, which has been running the trust since 1994. Saracen said: "The HSBC UK Smaller Companies unit has been in existence for nine months and we are concerned that this is a short period in which to judge a fund manager's ability."

Apple expecting loss

APPLE COMPUTER in which Microsoft is investing \$150 million (£94 million), expects to report another loss for the fiscal fourth quarter ending in September, and said sales for the period will be lower than a year ago. Apple "does not believe it will return to profitability in the fourth quarter", the company disclosed in a filing on Monday with the Securities and Exchange Commission. "The company believes that net sales will be below the prior year's comparable periods through at least the first quarter of 1998, if not longer."

Epwin turnover up 27%

EPWIN, the building products group that specialises in window installations, lifted pre-tax profits by 14.5 per cent in the six months to June 28, from £2 million to £2.3 million, on turnover of £43.6 million, up 27 per cent from £34.3 million. Earnings per share were up 15 per cent, from 6p to 6.9p. An interim dividend of 3.15p (2.9p) will be paid on October 13. The company, which has made four acquisitions in the past year for a total of £6 million, says that it is now ready to increase its market share.

NBS mutuality package

NEWCASTLE Building Society's pre-tax profits fell from £4.6 million to £3.5 million for the first half of this year because of the society's mutual benefit package. Bill Midgley, chief executive, said: "Around £740,000 was awarded to borrowers who qualified under the loyalty bonus schemes and investors, both existing and new, who benefit from the society's interest rate structure. If we had maintained the same margin as the average converting society of 1.8 per cent, profits would have risen by 40 per cent."

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buy	Bank Sell	Bank Buy	Bank Sell
Australia S	2.25	2.07	0.670	0.611
Austria Sch	21.67	20.01	5.00	5.05
Belgium Fr	52.09	50.50	2.63	2.39
Canada S	2.807	2.137	12.69	11.75
Denmark Kr	9.32	10.89	1.21	1.15
Finland M	0.807	0.723	30.50	26.50
France Fr	11.78	10.89	8.56	8.08
Germany Dm	10.12	9.50	250.00	240.50
Greece Dr	4.98	4.47	13.45	12.35
Hong Kong S	12.00	11.65	1.25	1.24
Iceland	1.27	1.07	269.958	240.001
Ireland Pl	1.16	1.07	1.885	1.562
Israel Shek	5.90	5.25	—	—
Italy Lira	120.00	22.25	—	—
Japan Yen	198.23	180.70	—	—

Rates for small denominations bank notes supplied by Barclays Bank. Other rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

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Tempus, page 26

So farewell then, Sir Des. Yesterday, the pugnacious Mr Merseyside lost his battle to hang onto power and by the autumn he will be out of the boardroom of the inaptly named United Utilities. Single-handedly, he has done more to put a stop to the coupling of the roles of chairman and chief executive than all the committees on corporate governance combined.

Sir Desmond does not believe in power sharing but institutional investors do. They are unhappy with the notion that one man can determine the shape of a company's strategy and preside over its implementation, particularly when he presides as Sir Des does, with an arrogant disregard for the opinions of others.

In theory, a contingent of strong non-executive directors should be able to keep a strong corporate boss in check. But clearly this had not been the case at United Utilities, where it was only after shareholder discontent over the running of the company reached screaming pitch that Sir Peter Middleton and his colleagues were spurred into action. Even seasoned corporate operators may have quaked at the prospect of going into battle against Sir Desmond, although the imminent arrival of British Aerospace's punchy Sir Dick Evans on the United Utilities board might have provided some interesting confrontations.

They will not be necessary now, since the headhunters are about to go searching for a new, and non-executive chairman for the company. But the unsavoury episode will certainly have ensured that investors step up their objections to a concentration of power in a single being.

Sir Ronald Hampel and his colleagues chose not to outlaw the idea of a combined chairman and chief executive. Instead, they called for the appointment of a tough independent non-executive director to be the voice of investors. What the United Utilities case indicates is that investors can be driven into exercising those vocal chords and, when they do, they demand that the roles be split.

Not all those who currently combine the chairman and chief executive roles exhibit megalomaniac tendencies, but however well behaved and effective they may be, they are likely to be the last of the line. If they wish to avoid controversy, they may already be planning sensible statements on the subject of succession, for in many cases these individuals are so closely identified with the success of their companies that there are legitimate concerns as to how the

business will cope without them. John Ribbatt at British Land, Sir Richard Greenbury at Marks & Spencer and Garry Weston at Associated British Foods have all served shareholders with style. They are not in the habit of losing top managers with the unnerving news that Sir Desmond did. But they would each do well to think of which two individuals could best step into the single pair of shoes that they will one day have to vacate.

Inflation deduction with touch of Alice

Surprise was the element missing from the inflation figures yesterday. Unseasonably high prices for vegetables and rising petrol prices may have contributed to a slight increase in the headline figure, but, thanks to the Bank of England's monetary policy committee, we know there is nothing to fear.

Last week the MPC performed the impressive verbal feat of talking down the pound by indicating its confidence that the economy had been brought back into line and more interest rate increases would be unnecessary in the short term. We can safely assume that this opinion was based on advance warning of the picture that we were all allowed to see yesterday, and a peek at the Bank's inflation report which is about to be made public.

Just what the figures really mean depends on which set you choose to peer at most closely. Ironically, the headline figure of 3.3 per cent is swollen as a result of those measures that the Chancellor introduced to stop the spending boom and quell a potential hike in inflation. Alice in Wonderland herself might have spotted something awry here. So, on to what is known as RPI, which strips out the excise increases and produces a July figure unchanged on June.

Blame the weather for smudging the figures and strip out unseasonal food price increases, and it is possible to argue that inflation was actually marginally lower last month.

At this point, however, Alice might begin to think that inflation could vanish, if one chose to ignore everything that had risen in price. On balance, the message in the figures is that inflation is under control. And away from the governmental calculators, that is also the conclusion. In the high street there is no evidence of windfall spending pushing up prices, albeit that it is bringing retailers some welcome extra business. This week's figures from manufacturing indicated that there is no upward pressure on prices coming from that direction, with raw material costs falling significantly over the past month.

It is enough to make Alice wonder whether the MPC

needed that last hike in interest rates. It will penalise industry, which needs to invest, and which is already bemoaning the agonies of the strong pound. But consolation comes from the fact that at least it was only a quarter of a per cent, and not the full point or more suggested by those who wanted drastic action from the newly independent Bank.

Borrower beware — buyer beware

Legislation will never be able to prevent some people borrowing more than they can afford. When the culprits are would-be property moguls, they are merely gearing up, and if they go bust the chances are that they will be back to ask another banker for help before long. But when the borrowers are individuals aiming to survive rather than make a fortune, the consequences of overborrowing can be personal catastrophe.

Most lenders are aware of this simple truth. While they could take refuge in the *caveat emptor* approach to business, they try to tread a careful line between what people want to borrow and what

they can afford to borrow. After all, there is little point in shovelling out the cash unless you will be able to pull it back, complete with interest.

But it remains the case that many personal borrowers remain oblivious to the level of interest that will be charged, their concern being only to get their hands on the money they need. Thus it is that lenders serving the most disadvantaged sections of society charge the highest rates of interest.

Yesterday, one of these companies — truly the lender of the last resort — said it would review its entire loan portfolio.

If it has a view to ever recovering the loans, it may find some nasty surprises in its researches. But the likelihood is that it has already pocketed a profit by selling on those loans to another institution. *Caveat emptor*, as they say.

Gnomes of UBS

FRESH from his victory in persuading Credit Suisse to merge with Winterthur, Martin Ebner is renewing his attack on UBS. The Swiss bank has successfully kept him at bay for three years, but he is not one to give up. His "summer vision" for Winterthur having been accomplished, the UBS gnomes may feel they need to treat him a little more tactfully. Any ideas for carefully watering down his stake would be courting danger.

General Accident boosted by Provident deal

By GAVIN LUMSDEN

GENERAL ACCIDENT, the composite insurer, announced a 35 per cent leap in interim pre-tax profits to a record £260 million yesterday as last year's acquisition of Provident Mutual boosted an already strong performance in the UK.

The addition of Provident Mutual, a Scottish pensions company, increased life and pensions sales by 19 per cent to £105 million while profits rose 37 per cent to £63 million.

On general insurance, GA is the first UK player to declare an underwriting profit this year, up £8 million to £19 million on slightly reduced premiums of £771 million. While home and property cover delivered growing profits, and its Lloyd's marine business broke even, losses from motor insurance increased as claims and low-cost competition surged.

Bob Scott, group chief executive, praised the UK results in the context of universal competition. "It used to be the case that one area would balance out another. Now all our business units are reporting increased competition."

Worldwide general premiums fell £20 million to £2.21 billion as a result. The company is making 600 staff redundant in the US where losses fell back to £79 million. Corrective action in Canada,



Bob Scott said GA faced competition in every area

including withdrawing sewerage coverage in Ontario, reduced losses to \$26 million. The company has withdrawn its personal business in Denmark and The Netherlands and is reviewing its position in other countries after incurring a £20 million loss in Europe.

Realised investment gains more than doubled to £344 million as GA reduced its

weighting in equities from 40 per cent to 25 per cent.

The company is paying a foreign income dividend of 12.5p, up 10 per cent. It is undecided on whether to buy back shares to reduce its capital surplus. It wants issues around advanced corporation tax and FIDs clarified first.

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Holliday sees 64% surge in profits

By MARK COURT

HOLLIDAY CHEMICAL, the speciality chemicals group, began its rehabilitation in the City by announcing a 64 per cent increase in half-year pre-tax profits yesterday.

The profits surge, from £8.1 million to £13.4 million, was driven by Uquifa, its Spanish pharmaceutical subsidiary, which manufactures Ranitidine, the active ingredient for the generic rival to Zantac, Glaxo Wellcome's stomach ulcer drug that came off patent in the US last month.

Ranitidine contributed £4 million to profits in the first half and Michael Pearson, Holliday's chairman, said the product had "excellent growth prospects".

Mark Robbins, joint chief executive, said the product would contribute at least £4 million in the second half. "How much it moves forward is up to the open market, which is difficult to forecast. We don't know how many people will go to market over the next few years," he said.

An interim dividend of 2.5p, compared with 2.1p, will be paid on October 1.

Holliday has given its shareholders a rollercoaster ride since its flotation in 1993. Brokers believe that Ranitidine might help to restore the company's reputation in the City.

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Sedgwick denies search for a merger partner

By GAVIN LUMSDEN

SAIX RILEY, chairman of Sedgwick, the insurance broker, insisted yesterday the company would remain independent after speculation grew that it was looking for a merger partner.

Earlier Mr Riley had unfavourably compared Sedgwick's strategy of constantly aiming to grow in size and turnover with Willis Corroon, a rival, whose chairman John Reeve has publicly stated his opposition to consolidation in the sector. The City took this as a hint that Sedgwick had

approached Willis Corroon and been rebuffed.

Mr Riley also denied that Sedgwick's consultancy business had suffered as a result of its "naming and shaming" over pensions mis-selling by

Helen Liddell, Economic Secretary, in May. Ms Liddell criticised Sedgwick and Legal & General for their attitude to the pensions review attempting to clear up to 500,000 potential cases of mis-selling by the end of next year.

Mr Riley said: "We have been in touch with all of our

clients and they support our position. We are continuing to pick up new business." Half-year results showed consultancy revenues had risen £12.1 million to £113.8 million. He insisted Sedgwick, which has 6,000 pension transfer cases to review, would meet the Government's timetable.

The strong pound knocked £7 million off the group's interim profits. On constant exchange rates pre-tax profits rose 16 per cent to £66.5 million. The dividend remains at 3p.

Halstead hit in Australia

SHARES in the James Halstead Group, the floor coverings and tents maker, tumbled from 242.5p to 205p yesterday after a profit warning (Adam Jones writes).

The problems centre on Drize-Bone, its Australian wet-weather clothing subsidiary, which has been hit by a stock build-up.

Halstead blamed the strong Australian dollar and waning government support for exporters. It said profits could fall 20 per cent below market expectations for the year to June 30 of 199.5 million before tax.



General Accident

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	6 Months to 30.6.97	6 Months to 30.6.96
General Premiums	£2,210	£2,230
Life Premiums	956	853
Underwriting Result	(166)	(105)
Investment Income	280	272
Life Profits	63	46
Operating Profit before Taxation	260	193
Profit Attributable to Ordinary Shareholders	410	226
Operating Earnings per Ordinary Share	40.3p	26.8p
Interim Dividend per Ordinary Share	12.5p	11.4p

Record first half operating pre-tax profit of £260m (1996: £193m).

Continued UK underwriting profitability of £19m (1996: £11m).

Profit contribution from life operations up by 37% to £63m.

Worldwide underwriting deficit reduced by 37% to £66m.

Growth in investment earnings in local currencies of 7%.

Interim dividend up 9.6% at 12.5p per share.

A copy of the Interim Announcement will be posted to Shareholders on 16th August 1997. Copies may also be obtained from the office of the Secretary at the address below.

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A copy of the results is available on Internet: <http://www.ga.co.uk>

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STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

Allied Domecq in demand as investors change tack

THE search is under way among City investors for value. Now that the deadlock created by a strong pound has been broken by the Bank of England's view that interest rates have peaked, investors can move away from the safe banks and drug companies and look further afield.

Allied Domecq was one beneficiary of this change of tack, with its price climbing 17p to a high for the year of 474½p as over four million shares changed hands.

As the stale bulls are quick to testify, the shares have been poor performers, well overshadowed by Guinness, 51½p dearer at 588p, and Grand Metropolitan, 50p higher at 592½p. There is plenty of value left in Allied's portfolio of well-known brands, which could be unlocked if someone were to find the courage. And with the shares yielding 6 per cent, they are proving difficult to ignore.

Lehman Brothers also joined the rush for value yesterday by raising its recommendation in GKN, up 30p at £12.71, from "neutral" to "outperform" in the wake of last week's profits news. The broker is said to be excited by prospects and is forecasting earnings growth of 15 per cent a year. Just a day before the figures were released on August 5, the shares were about £10.60.

Another company that has seen its share price advance in the past week is Vodafone, where currency factors have come into play. Last Thursday, as the pound started to lose ground against the dollar and mark, after interest rates had risen for the fourth month in a row, the shares were trading at the 450p level. They closed last night 21½p higher at 51p.

Other companies reckoned to be offering good value were BAT Industries, up 17p at 517½p, BT, 10p to 199½p, Low & Boiss, 10p to 267½p, and Securicor, which still owns a 40 per cent stake in Celent, 15½p to 300½p.

Stock shortages continued to drive the rest of the equity market higher, enabling the FTSE 100 index to nudge back towards its record level. It finished just a shade below its best of the day with a rise of 43.9 at 3,075.8 as total turnover reached 826 million shares.

Investors took the news of the higher than expected inflation number in their stride.



Safeway, 12p higher, said by one broker to be oversold

Sentiment remains underpinned by comments from the Bank of England, suggesting rates may have risen far enough for the time being.

The drug companies were a dull market after Morgan Stanley, the US securities house, took the view that there was only limited scope for "upside earnings surprise" among their highly rated US peer groups. Glaxo Wellcome

fell 13p to £12.75, and Zeneca 17½p to £19.46½.

Persistent talk of a break-up bid lifted Dalgety 6½p to 273p.

Weekend reports suggested

ING Barings, the merchant bank, was putting together a £900 million war chest.

Dalgety looks vulnerable to a bid after two profits warnings and a dividend cut.

Hillsdown Holdings stood out with a rise of 4½p to 168p.

after NatWest Securities upgraded its recommendation for the shares from "hold" to "add". Alan Erskine has looked at the food producers and thinks value is emerging among the second liners, with a possible 10 per cent upside in Hillsdown.

In the meantime, Unilever, 10p better at 19.19, continues to see its rating driven closer to the multinational consumer companies such as Procter & Gamble.

Erskine has downgraded his recommendation in Dewe, unchanged at 36p, from "add" to "hold" after outperforming the market by 23 per cent so far, this year, while moving Cadbury Schweppes from "hold" to "reduce".

Sainsbury stood out in a market short of stock with a rise of 16½p at 455p. Earlier in the day HSBC James Capel, the broker, had indicated that the shares were looking a little expensive, while rival Safeway, 12p dearer at 396½p, appeared to be oversold. Capel has suggested that clients switch out of Sainsbury and into Safeway, or even Asda, 4p better at 150½p.

Shares of Hamlet Group, the clothing importer, were suspended at 22p pending clarification of its financial position.

What is Bob Morton up to? He has bought a further 50,000 shares in Whistey Mackay-Lewis, unchanged at 21p. It takes his total holding to 1.5 million shares, or 19.65 per cent. Perhaps he has some plans at last for the architectural consultant.

□ **GILT-EDGED:** The bond market shrugged off the jump in inflation last month and instead drew strength from the weaker pound. Gains of around £24 were posted on longer dated issues.

The best performance was

reserved for index-linked issues which scored rises of up to 11, while in the futures pit the September series of the long gilt put on 1½ at £114½.

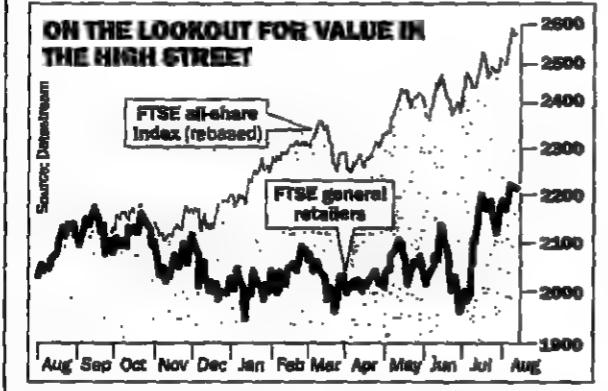
Treasury 8 per cent 2015 was £2½ better at £110½, while Treasury 8 per cent 2000 was three ticks lower at £102½.

□ **FTSE 100:** Shares clung to modest gains in late morning trade, with dealers reluctant to take major positions in advance of figures on key retail sales and consumer price. By midday the Dow Jones industrial average was 12.54 ahead at 8,074.65.

4.8 per cent. Sales of white goods, including television, audio equipment, video and camcorders were particularly strong.

The broker has taken heart from this and says that the main beneficiaries will be Dixons and Kingfisher, which owns Comet.

Rod Forest, of Laing, says: "The BRC survey confirms that the windfalls are being spent on big-ticket items. We have merely reiterated our view. They are too lowly rated with strong earnings prospects. Most of the sector leaders appear fully valued."



KINGFISHER increased 15½p to 750p and Dixons rose 10p to 685p as Credit Lyonnais Laing, the broker, reiterated its positive stance on the shares.

The move came after publication of the July survey from the British Retail Consortium (BRC) that showed leading retailers' sales climbing as consumers' site windfall gains.

The overall value of sales grew 5.2 per cent on a like-for-like basis, compared with 4.5 per cent in June. The average sales rise in the past three months was

4.8 per cent. Sales of white goods, including television, audio equipment, video and camcorders were particularly strong.

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The Keswick star is eclipsed at Hong Kong's new dawn

Family charm offensive may have been left too late says Fraser Nelson

As the crowds celebrated the handover of Hong Kong to Beijing, Henry Keswick was in one of the island's hospitals. Chinese mystics might see more in his misfortune than merely a shoulder shattered in a fall, and see a symbol of an ailing dynasty.

The Keswick empire, created 163 years ago and progressing from opium shipments to a vast array of investments, ranging from insurance to Kwik Save stores, now seems unlikely to survive intact for a future generation.

In Hong Kong, its businesses are under threat of local takeover. In Britain, Sir Chips Keswick is struggling to rebuild the reputation of Hambro's, where he is executive chairman. Henry's wife, Tessa, who used to be able to glory in a powerful role advising the Chancellor of the Exchequer, is now having to work hard to find political allies in the new administration. In short, the Keswicks are beginning to look as if all their appearances in the gossip columns have eventually brought on them the curse of *Hello!* magazine: life is looking tough.

Jardine Matheson — which has for generations been the family's financial powerhouse — has found itself without friends in high places in its traditional base, Hong Kong. Unless they forge some new contacts soon, the brothers could be forced to give up their multibillion pound empire and cut the dynasty off completely from Hong Kong. But after the way they bungled their relations with the Chinese Government in the run-up to the handover, that may prove too difficult.

Although the red flag has been hoisted over most of



Henry Keswick's biggest coup has been his meeting with Zhu Rongji



Sir Charles and Caro Powell: close to former PM



Jonathan Powell



Tessa Keswick advised former Chancellor



Sir Chips Keswick



Simon Keswick

Hong Kong's leading business institutions. Jardine Matheson still controls 40 per cent of the offices in the colony. Its other interests are so vast that, it can be argued, Jardine is still running the former colony as a kind of involuntary joint venture with Beijing.

But, having spent the best part of the past decade thinking of ways to escape Beijing's clutches, transferring their company's listing to Singapore and moving its legal base to Bermuda, while keeping themselves in London, establishing a happier partnership looks unlikely.

Beijing has scowled at the brothers from a distance. When the brothers led the flight to domicile outside Hong Kong, Chinese officials regarded their company as the worst of the "capitalist run-

ning dogs". However, it remembered what her husband's deepest wish was to be stuck in an underground tunnel where neither she nor Margaret Thatcher could call him, is already seen as one of Peter Mandelson's confidants.

Jonathan Powell, Sir Charles's brother, has become Tony Blair's chief of staff.

But this is cold comfort to the Keswicks' Hong Kong operations, which are being forced to make friends with the Chinese or face decline in the cold.

Enter Li Ka-shing, a Hong Kong property tycoon known to the locals as "superman". He is the Keswicks' equal and opposite: a home-grown tycoon, now the eighth-richest man in the world, who runs a £40 billion empire that owns virtually every Hong Kong office that Jardine does not.

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Rather than build his empire by shipping mind-altering drugs to the Chinese, he kicked off selling plastic flowers to the Americans. He has become Beijing's darling by investing heavily in China, making high-profile charity donations and taking a low-key approach to wealth.

His latest move — taking a 3 per cent stake in Jardine — has triggered speculation that superman will make an outright bid that the beleaguered Keswicks will be forced to accept.

Mr Li made an attempt in 1988 as part of a consortium, scaring the company into ring-fencing itself with as much overseas legislation as it could muster. The result was a complex ownership structure that gives the Keswicks 45 per cent of the vote in Jardine Matheson with a 7 per cent

share of the profits.

Now he is back, with a

new offer. He is likely to

make an outright bid for

Jardine Matheson.

The Government will today announce the latest unemployment figures, which ministers hope will see a new fall in the numbers out of work and claiming benefit. But behind the announcement, Labour is shaping up to a tough decision: how unemployment should be counted in the future.

In opposition, Labour was vociferous in attacking the Government over unemployment — partly on its record (jobs being lost, people going out of work) but partly, too, on how those trends were recorded, or "fiddled". Labour claimed that the Conservative Government had changed the basis of the unemployment figures so many times the statistics were all but meaningless.

So when Labour took office, David Blunkett, the Secretary of State for Education and Employment, faced a dilemma. Having insisted that unem-

Philip Bassett looks at a tricky decision for ministers over moves to improve the credibility of unemployment data

ployment was higher than the Conservatives had maintained, would the new administration now demand that a more accurate measure of unemployment be used, and risk accusations that unemployment went "up" under Labour?

Blunkett's team is ready to decide. The Government's keynote Welfare to Work jobs programme makes the decision even more important if unemployment is not accurately measured as Labour defines it, then the success (or otherwise) of the New Deal will not be demonstrable.

Officially, unemployment is calculated in two ways. First, the numbers out of work and claiming benefit are

counted every month. This largely administrative check then forms the monthly "claimant count" (CC), which, adjusted to take account of seasonal variations, is used as the main measure of unemployment.

Secondly, every three months the Government carries out the Labour Force Survey (LFS) — a sample survey of 60,000 households, asking detailed questions about labour market activity. Unemployment measured to United Nations' International Labour Organisation (ILO) unemployment, as it is known) standards, ILO unemployment follows a similar pattern to the CC measure, but at a consistently higher

level, especially as economic recovery has progressed.

What Labour ministers now have to decide is whether they will shift to a monthly LFS, widely regarded as a more accurate measure of real unemployment, or in Government will shrug off the position they held in opposition because of the cost of making the move. Unemployment analysts regarded it as significant when last month ministers and officials laid such stress on the ILO data that they presented and explained it before the claimant count.

Whitehall officials are readying a set of changes that will alter significantly how the City, business and

others receive and absorb the unemployment figures. First, the Government will combine the CC and ILO data into one release of information; secondly, the presentation will focus on key data, rather than trying to present figures on every single labour market measure; and thirdly, the Government presentation will try to give a coherent picture of the labour market, rather than just a series of unconnected data sets. Officials are unsure as yet about how far down this path to go. The Office for National Statistics is considering providing its own statistical, rather than economic or political, view.

The decision will be seen by users of government data as a test of Labour's commitment to statistical and economic legitimacy. There is an opportunity to restore political, business and public credibility to data vital to measuring economic performance.

Soft teeth

PROFESSIONAL associations, doncha just love 'em? Remember when the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England & Wales fined Richard Stone and Michael Jordan, of Coopers & Lybrand, £1,000 each for not declaring conflicts of interest when they took on the Polly Peck insolvency.

Well the Insolvency Practitioners Association is now showing its teeth. It has been looking into the role of Peter Phillips, the liquidator of Robert Maxwell's estate who ran up £1.62 million of fees for his firm, Buchler Phillips, and Nabarro Nathanson, the law

firm, while recovering just £1.67 million of assets. This was the situation described by Lord Justice Ferris as "profoundly shocking".

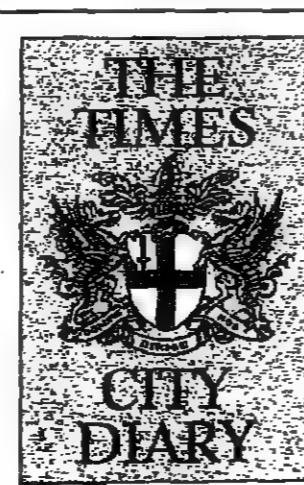
So what does the IPA have to say about it? "We have previously, at Mr Phillips' own request, investigated the conduct of the receiver in this case," said David Sapte, IPA president, "and have found that he acted entirely appropriately."

Sapte, adds helpfully, that the IPA is happy to look at the case again. Don't call us, we'll call you.

• GRAHAM HOOPER, the investment director of Chase de Vere Investments, the independent financial adviser, has found a novel way to predict stock market movements.

Hooper recently bought 38 Jacob sheep to keep the grass in his paddock down. But he has noticed that the sheep also show a surprising talent for indicating whether the FTSE 100 index will rise or fall. "If the sheep droppings are damp, I've noticed the market tends to fall, and if they are dry, it's likely to go up," he says.

On Monday morning, when the FTSE dropped nearly 65 points, the droppings were showing definite signs of sogness. But what about the



market's bounce back later on in the day? Hooper says: "The sheep missed me. There was a dew on the ground."

Pulling away

DOWN in Cleckheaton (that's near Bradford, by the way), something is stirring. John Ross, chief executive of Charles Sydney, the posh car dealership, has suddenly departed, taking a £130,000 payoff in his pocket. No explanation, nothing, apart from an interesting rumour in the motor trade about a merger with Symer Group, the Nottingham BMW franchisee headed by Frank Symer, the former British sports car champion.

According to Raymond Edwards, the executive chairman of Charles Sydney, there is

nothing in these rumours, and the departure of Ross was entirely amicable and Edwards and Ross are the "best of friends". Apparently the business was not big enough for the both of them. Well, Cleckheaton is a small town.

• THE Office of National Statistics has realised what sorceresses all over the country knew already — that the football season is starting earlier. Increases in season ticket prices are now included in August inflation figures, not those for September. Given that the cost of going to a top flight game has gone up more than 220 per cent in the past decade, this could explain why this month's inflation figure is the highest for two years.

No old pals

OF COURSE at the moment the bedside reading of all responsible directors of public companies is the report of the Hampel committee on corporate governance. Brian Evans, the chief executive of Wyevale Garden Centres, has clearly taken it to heart, as I found perusing the small ads.

Under "business opportunities" it emerges that Wyevale is on the lookout for two non-executive directors. "I know it's unusual, but why not?" Evans tells me. "But with all this corporate governance asking for independent non-execu-

tive, we thought we'd get away from the old pals act and cast our net a bit wider." He advertised "business opportunities" not "situations vacant" because Wyevale wants people who already have jobs.

It will save a few bob on headhunters' fees too.

For artists

A MISSIVE arrives from Becks beer to tell me that it has spent more than £2 million on arts sponsorship over the past decade. This includes getting leading artists to design limited edition beer labels. Apparently Damien Hirst's label is most sought after. But who wants half a sheep on their beer bottle?

JASON NISSE



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ANTHONY HARRIS

Why the next bull market will be bonds

direct interest. More vulnerable is Hong Kong Land, with its lucrative property interests. Its weaker links with Jardine Matheson make it a more attractive target.

Mr Li's approach comes at a time when the Keswicks are beginning to mount an unconvincing charm offensive to the Chinese. They have been attempting a kind of corporate glitz with the Chinese. But they have resisted China's invitation to return the listing of Jardine's shares to Hong Kong, which many see as the essential olive branch.

Henry's biggest coup to date was meeting Zhu Rongji, Senior Vice-Premier of China. He said he had assured him equal treatment in all business dealings. However, Jardine still resolutely differs from other "hongs". It has not attempted to exploit growth in China by selling stakes to mainland businesses.

Even with the tacit "no hostilities" assurance from the Chinese, the Keswicks will find the investment community far less forgiving. So much time has been spent seeking ways to avoid the Communists getting a hold of their company that its financial performance has slipped.

One need only look at a couple of their chosen escape pods to see why Mr Li's offer may be welcomed. Looking for safe vehicles to transfer some capital into, Trafalgar House and Kwik Save were chosen as safe vehicles. Both performed dismally and were derided in the City.

Mr Li is preparing to hand over his business to his two sons, Victor and Richard, and it is likely that he has not decided just what mischief he intends to make.

If, as he insists, his 3 per cent stake in Jardine is just an investment then he has already made some £40 million paper profit on the speculation alone. If he is still musing, he can command some tight property deals from the brothers with the unspoken threat of a hostile bid looming.

Or, he could leave them to the communists jungle for a few years, and see how they enjoy running a living museum of capitalism in a country where they will never again be part of the ruling elite.

This column argues that when the bull market finally tops out (probably, but not certainly, quite soon) the bond market will take up the running. This may sound silly. How can there possibly be a bull market in bonds when we are told not only that markets may crash any day, but that inflation is rising, and that the next rise in money rates is only a matter of time? Simply because all interest rates — long, medium and short — are still unreasonably high by historic standards. What went up hasn't come down, and gravity rules in the end.

The only trouble with historic standards is that you need a long memory to know what they are; and my own memory, a longish one, has only now been jogged by Ian Shepherdson, HSBC's man in New York. (His bullish forecast is for US Treasury bonds, but his reasoning ought to apply, broadly, to Britain too.) It is supported by a chart that puts current long yields into perspective. Long yields have fallen by about half since their peak in the early 1980s, when Paul Volcker was struggling to choke off the inflationary threat of Reaganomics; but they are still nearly double what they were in the 1940s and 1950s, and higher indeed than at any time between the First World War and the oil shock of 1973.

So "historically high" is a plain statement of fact. Rates are nearly double what an historian might expect, when you remember that inflation is little higher than in the 1950s, and the US budget deficit is melting away. (Our own inflation is actually lower than 40 years ago, but the deficit is worse.) Quite right, too, you may be thinking. After all, bond investors suffered enormous losses in real value during that great inflation, and they are determined not to be had that way again. And it is true that investors have eleventh-hour memories: look at the Germanophobia about hyper-inflation, which they last suffered half a century ago.

Even elephants, though, surely forget in the end, and Shepherdson suggests that they will increasingly

per cent if I hold bonds for the next decade, when equities deliver as much every few months? Of course not; but this is really where we came in. The New Era is no longer an eccentric minority view; most analysts expect inflation to stay down. But the reason why this has not much excited the bond market up to now is that the equity market has been so irresistibly tempting. That will change if and when the crash comes: the bond bull market will be kicked off by the "flight into quality", which is the mark of every financial panic.

Should you simply buy a US bond fund, or could all this be applied to Britain too? I believe it could — once we get over the twitting caused by the building society windfalls, and by a rise in petrol prices which is actually deflationary, whatever the headline figures say. The only trouble for the private saver is income tax; but a switch into bonds now, and a switch of those bonds into a personal equity plan next year, looks very safe.



Hirst fans can get picked

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Daniel Rosenthal reports on the 40-year-old LP recordings that are coming back to haunt their now-famous casts



Trevor Nunn (right) with Peter Woodthorpe recording *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at the ADC



Ian Holm (left) and Richard Johnson at the 1970 re-recording of *Othello* for better sound quality

Long playing, long lasting Shakespeare

Never in the field of audio drama was so much recorded by so many over such a long period.

In 1957, the British Council decided to finance the production of unabridged LP versions of the complete works of Shakespeare. These were to be records which could be studied and enjoyed across the globe.

Dr George "Dadie" Rylands, fellow of King's College, Cambridge, and passionate advocate of clear, precise verse-speaking, was hired as director, with the late Harley Ustil, director of the Argo record label, as his technical supervisor. By 1964, the pair had co-ordinated the recording of all 37 plays, released on Argo without so much as an "Ay" or "Ol" missing. *Hamlet* and *Richard III* weighed in at five LPs each. *The Comedy of Errors* was a snug double album with "bonus" sonnets on the fourth side.

■ Dadie Rylands
Ninety-five in October, he took numerous Argo roles, including Angelo in Measure for Measure.

"Our first 'studio' was the Amateur Dramatic Club (ADC) theatre in Cambridge, which was far from sound-proof. Whenever a dog barked or a plane flew overhead we had to go back and re-record. It was enormously frustrating. When we moved to the Decca studios in north London, in

1960, things became more straightforward.

"For me, it was absolutely essential that the recordings should be unabridged, to give teachers of Shakespeare the real text. I found it very difficult to get what I wanted in those plays which were hackneyed, such as *Hamlet* and *Macbeth*, or unfamiliar to the public, such as *Troilus and Cressida*.

"Nevertheless, the recordings were very well reviewed and, I hope, very much enjoyed. I remain proud of them because they represented such a tremendous undertaking."

■ Peter Orr
Deputy director of the British Council's recorded sound unit in the 80s, edited the recordings and acted.

"The sessions at the ADC were very civilised — some of the professional actors were happy to accept half a case of claret instead of a fee.

"We recorded everything out of sequence, arranging the schedule according to which professionals were available on particular days. We worked on *Richard III* and the three parts of *Henry VI* currently because they share common characters. This left one very distinguished actor totally confused. In the midst of all these Roses battles, he came up to Dadie and said: 'Please could you tell me which side I'm on?'

■ Margaret Drabble
*Novelist, was Imogen for the Argo *Cymbeline*, a few months after playing the part for the Marlowe Society.*

"I had a very bad stammer as a young person and it came back more severely during the recording of *Cymbeline* than it ever did on stage."

"In the theatre I learnt to sideswipe it. But perhaps because for a record you don't have the 'high' of live performance and are concentrating so much on your voice, I found the recording very difficult."

"My own voice sounds so awful to me that I've never dared listen to the *Cymbeline* record."

■ Prunella Scales
Actor, was in her early twenties when she took several parts, including Cordelia, and Rosaline in Love's Labour's Lost.

"I had been acting professionally for about six years when I auditioned for Dadie in London. At that stage, directors tended to cast me as a 'character actress' — which

simply means you are not pretty enough to play the romantic leads. So it was good to be offered the chance to play Cordelia and Rosaline."

"I learnt an enormous amount from Dadie, and from actors like William Devlin [who played Lear] and Irene Worth [Cleopatra]."

■ Richard Johnson
Actor and producer, played Othello and Antony.

"Dadie was a genial master of ceremonies at the recordings. He gave us general notes; we ran the play through a couple of times and then just got on with recording it."

"Ian Holm was excellent as Iago [when the original *Othello* was re-recorded in 1970 for better sound quality], very sly and insinuating. I think we were rather a good duo, and have always regretted that I never played Othello on stage."

"I greet the relaunch with a certain trepidation because the style of acting is bound to have changed. That's the thing with recordings and films: you are preserved rather like a fly in a jar."

in aspic and it's not usually very edifying spectacle."

■ Trevor Nunn
Increasingly National Theatre director, played several parts, including Gower in Henry V.

"I had to do Gower with virtually no rehearsal. He probably sounded as though he had come to the battlefield straight from school — which is 19. I more or less had."

"As an undergraduate we found it hard to believe that we were suddenly among very good professional actors, contributing to how scenes were to be interpreted. To work with someone like Irene Worth was a gift beyond price."

"The recordings continue to demonstrate everything that is good about presenting, with clarity and attention to detail, texts that have been revered for centuries. They are superbly spoken, but they were not acted to the point where there is revelation or surprise."

■ The Argo Shakespeares are released on August 19 on PolyGram Spoken Word, price £7.99, per play.

Problem left unsolved

A director who is able to express perception through invention can show this "problem" play making almost perfect sense. Fairytale simply married to human completely is never going to prove an ideal match, but more can be done to persuade us that the attempt is worth the try than Irina Brook manages in this production, setting off from here on a four-month national tour.

The fantasy element comes from Helena, poor daughter of a dead physician, who dares to love her benefactor's son, Bertram, and claims him as a reward after curing the king of France of his illness. Reality contributes Bertram's outrage at being so allotted. He goes off with his false friend Parolles to the Tuscan wars.

Whether Helena follows in disguise, tricks him into going to bed with her, and all ends well.

The crucial role is Helena, and the crucial relationship that between Bertram and Parolles. The latter has to contain something which young Bertram relishes but most abhors, the former must show herself to be as worthy, virtuous, beautiful and all the other superlatives that her supporters continually tell us she is.

Brook decides to set the play in an African market. Traders display wooden toys, hardware, leather goods, and into this busy world two white women wander, looking for souvenirs. Merriment ensues. Then one of the traders suggests they tell a story, like Mickey Rooney in the movies: right here And off we go.

Africa supplies too little to justify its presence. There is drumming, and a metal bowl struck sonorously with a rod. Helena's "miracle" cure is shown in shadow play behind a sheet. Musical arm-waving seems to be what does the trick, and Rachel Pickup's arms are remarkably elegant.

In the early scenes her speech is intelligible, veiled yet her displays of ardour, frenetically leaping forward, turn her into a curiously old-fashioned performance. By contrast, she is almost stiltish with Michael Greco's Parolles in their banner about virginity, ending the scene sitting legs astride on his groin. Some may say this justifies calling her "dear perfection", but it turns her into a sexual cheat.

Lafor's mockery of Parolles goes for nothing, and too many of the lines are spoken without discernible knowledge of their meaning. After the achievements of Brook's last two productions this is a disappointment.

JEREMY KINGSTON

Fiesta reborn in new sound world

BBC PROMS

BERNARD GARDINER

Concerto but Christian Tetzlaff, whose intense, almost fevered tone sounded oddly antique against the rounder, orchestral sound, drove it harder and faster. Plunging headlong through the first-movement cadenza, he never relaxed into the broad melody that follows. And though he played an electrifying allegro, one missed intonation in the adagio, and most of all, rhythmic subtlety.

It was a tall order to play a Beethoven symphony the night after Gardiner's riveting performance of the Ninth. But Saraste delivered a most joyful *Errola*, notable for its melodic horn solos and dead centre tuning despite the sweltering hall.

HELEN WALLACE

A nest of the avant garde, surely? "I don't really think about definitions. I have trouble enough finding out who and what I want to be."

Do his Nigerian origins make a difference? "I'm sure it's all in there somewhere. But so is Manchester. I did go on an art scholarship to Zimbabwe recently, and found I felt pretty affected. I saw these extraordinary patterns of coloured dots in some of the early cave paintings, and that set me off."

That places the dots. How about those brown lumps on the surface of his paintings? "Oh, the elephant dung. I dunno, I had a lot pointed out to me in Zimbabwe and somehow found it inspiring."

Ambitions: "To go on living one day at a time, enjoying myself with what I do, and hoping that comes across to the rest of the world."

JOHN RUSSELL TAYLOR

Mondrian at the Tate

Mondrian: *Nature to Abstraction*

From the Haags Gemeentemuseum, The Hague

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GREAT BRITISH HOPES

Rising stars in the arts firmament

CHRIS OFILI

Who starts by asking what the conceptual basis of the Wilton Diptych is?

The Wilton Diptych? "Don't you think it is the most beautiful thing? It almost melts on your tongue. Where can you get more pleasure than that?"

So he believes art should give pleasure? "What's the point of making it if it doesn't? I want to do something which is fun for me, and I hope will be fun for other people too. Serious as well, of course. But not dreary or boring."

Beginnings: Born in Manchester, he wanted to be a furniture designer, but as soon as he embarked on the foundation course and found his talent in drawing



was it. He studied under very unrestrictive teachers, who believed students should start by finding their own way. Then Chelsea and the Royal College, prizes and exposure. He found a London dealer, Victoria Miro, for himself, telling his youthful clients,

A fun out v frog in

Patchy P stolen by

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THE TIMES WEDNESDAY AUGUST 13 1997

ARTS EDINBURGH 31

Opera to please the balletomane; Tippett and Tharp honoured; too many tricks spoil the Bard. Plus Festival art shows

DONALD COOPER

A fun night out with a frog in drag

Say, we could do the show right here in this bar! This is the kick-off point of Mark Morris's production of Rameau's *ballet bouffon* for the Royal Opera, and why not? The Prologue is after all set in a vineyard and subtitled *The Birth of Comedy*, and, while detached from the main action, shows assorted low-lives planning to invent a new kind of entertainment, which they indeed do.

Platée (1745) is not Great Art, but in its chic, sophisticated, inconsequential heartlessness it is the progeny of a peculiarly Gallic form of the theatre: Rossini (*Comte Ory*), Offenbach, Chabrier and Poncet are among Rameau's offspring.

Adrienne Lobel's beautifully designed 1940-ish bar, the sort of place where the wearing of trousers is not obligatory, gradually fills up with reassuringly recognisable types — a sailor, a policeman, a drunk (*Thespis*), a deviously tipsy showgirl, Fifth Avenue types (Mormon and Thalia), and someone called "Dyke" (I thought that was a word not used in polite society nowadays). We are in the world of Jerome Robbins's *On the Town*, and the milieus of 18th- and 20th-century dance are neatly combined.

And dance is what it's all about: at first it seemed a pity for the Royal Opera chorus to be confined to the pit while Morris's 16 dancers enthusiastically mime their words; but the wit, the freshness, the sheer zaniness of his choreography soon sweep doubts away. The action of both Prologue and opera proper

OPERA

breaks off at the slightest excuse with the words "on danse" and, since Rameau was surely the first great composer of dance music, it's hard to cavil.

The airy textures, the rhythms, the forward impulse must set even the most recalcitrant operatic toe tapping, certainly as delivered by the ROH Orchestra under Nicho-

Paul Fouchécourt.

The diminutive French tenor's make-up and costume are masterly: he's a little green-pea-shaped frog in a diaphanous tea-gown barely concealing a pink belly-button, modest rope of pearls and lorgnette dangling from diamante bracelet. With huge frog feet and hands, Fouchécourt manages to preserve the dignity of Alastair Sim and the chaste flirtatiousness of Jack Lemmon on similar assignments. In a word, a classic travesty impersonation, and the moment when the joke is revealed, his frock is torn off and he hops back into the marsh is genuinely shocking, a momentary passing cloud in this hilariously heartless entertainment.

It's Fouchécourt's show, but François Le Roux (Jupiter), Diana Montague (Juno) and Mark Padmore (Thespis and Mercury) sing idiomatic and clearly, their words always audible, and Nicole Tibbles (La Folie) has great fun with her parody of an Italian coloratura aria, hurling out top Ds and even an E like fireworks. A delightfully civilised, undemanding evening, sponsored by TSB Bank Scotland.

RODNEY MILNES

as McGegan's hyper-imaginatively spirited direction.

A terrarium at the back of the bar links Prologue to opera, which shows Jupiter pretending to fancy the vain, hideously ugly marsh nymph Platée in order to teach the pathologically jealous Juno a lesson. Here Morris and his costume designer Isaac Mizrahi let their fantasy run riot. I particularly enjoyed duets for turtles and snakes to Rameau's *musette* Minuet, and a routine for the Three Graces (one of whom is a chap) that would stop Canova in his tracks. Only the elabo-

rate dance for children and philosophers threatened to topple over into the cuteness that is Morris's Achilles heel.

As may be gathered, the show is not exactly over-directed in an operatic sense — the subsidiary singing characters are left to get on with it — but at its centre is a magical, beautifully sung performance of the drag title role by Jean-Paul Fouchécourt.



Mark Padmore (in blazer) and the excellent Jean-Paul Fouchécourt (right) with various Satyrs in Mark Morris's production of Rameau's *Platée*

Tippett with too many strings attached

THE Edinburgh Festival does not have a great record as far as new music is concerned. It can, however, take legitimate pride in bringing two of the most successful of Sir Michael Tippett's scores into the world — the *Fantasia Concertante* on a Theme of Corelli in 1953, and the *Concerto for Orchestra* in 1963. So it was good thinking, in this fifth birthday year, to link those two pieces with *A Child of our Time* in an all-Tippett concert.

Or so it seemed until the public demonstrated that it was not enormously interested in the event, and until we heard what Richard Armstrong and the Royal Scottish National Orchestra made of the two

Edinburgh scores. Neither the *Fantasia Concertante* nor the *Concerto for Orchestra* is easy to perform, least of all when they must share rehearsal time both with each other and with a big choral work. On the other hand, the problems of balancing and blending the complexities of the string counterpoint in the *Fantasia Concertante* are well known and should surely not result in a performance that sounds as though the composer did not know his job.

The more clearly defined melodic shapes and textural profiles in the first movement of the *Concerto for Orchestra* encouraged a correspondingly more convincing and well-organised performance from the RSNO wind, harp and

piano. But the problem of string proliferation arises again in the second movement, and it brought much the same results as it did in the earlier work. Happily, the more dynamic structure of the finale inspired more confidence.

Even more happily, *A Child of our Time* was presented in a thoroughly distinctive and well-organised per-

formance. Richard Armstrong clearly does not believe in indulging sentiment or finding easy consolation in this work. His brisk tempo occasionally threatened the security of the ensemble, but they also contributed to an interpretation admirable for its rigorous frankness and its resigned rather than radiant refuge in philosophy at the end. It put much stress on the resources of the Edinburgh Festival Chorus but the lines remained unshakably firm, the textures clear. The soloists too — Christine Brewer, Michelle De Young, Ian Bostridge and Alastair Miles — were all integrated into the illusion-free approach to the work. The Tippett echoes had scarcely

drained away when the Usher Hall was in use again for something else. András Schiff is playing through the first book of the *Well-Tempered Clavier*, on the piano and in numerical order, in a pair of eagerly awaited late-night recitals. I welcome this pianist's attitude to Bach's keyboard music. Time and again in the first 12 of the Preludes and Fugues musical history opened out in front of him, mainly in the direction of Chopin but also towards Debussy and even Rachmaninov. What those pianist composers found there cannot be ignored by a pianist as sensitive as Schiff.

GERALD LARNER

DONALD COOPER

Patchy Puritanism stolen by scenery

FOR his first production in Britain, the French director-designer Stéphane Braunschweig has certainly come up with a striking set. It is a vast timbered drum that cracks round to reveal a confusion of splinted platforms and dark, twisted staircases. Beneath are spidery corridors and beside them is a reproduction of Masaccio's *Expulsion of Adam and Eve from Eden*.

That is an apt image, given that *Measure for Measure* concerns a Puritan attempt to punish disobedient lovers. Indeed, the set as a whole suits a play in which there is plenty of watching, spying and sly manipulation.

But did I also see the Puritan himself, Paul Brennan's Angelo, in creeping about with a pair of thick black wings sprouting from his funeral suit? I think

I did, and it struck me as the sort of attention-getting yet undeveloped touch that heralds a tricksy, tendentious production.

As it turns out, the news from the Lyceum is not that bad. Nevertheless, Braunschweig the director is in puritan form than Braunschweig the designer.

The twin successes of a slow, over-long production, sponsored by the Bank of Scotland, are Brennan's Angelo and the nun he tries to seduce, Lisé Stevenson's Isabella. He is a neat, suspiciously correct

young man who quickly replaces diffidence with the hardness of power; she makes you believe in the energetic, fiery woman beneath the looking novice.

I have never seen more effective treatment of the notoriously difficult scene where Isabella inadvertently betrays the un-self-aware Angelo. Something about this pale, intense girl, listening so carefully as he engages her in argument, touches the intellectual underused heart. The words "pray you, begone", usually just a curt dismissal of her plea on behalf of her condemned brother, becomes a protest against a sexual pull he does not care to feel.

Suddenly their faces are inches apart. Suddenly her hands, innocently extended, are near his lips, and their smell hits his nose. The erotic

tension is unacknowledged but palpable — and dramatically as useful as it could be.

Nothing else in the evening is as subtly done, and some things are decidedly unsatisfactory. There are silly jokes, such as having Isabella's mother superior react to the offstage sound of Danny Sapani's Lucifer as if she were going into orgasm. The mix of costumes — Elbow as PC Plod, an FT-reading Licio in white suit and exotic

fur coat. Pompey as a blend of Druid and Greek philosopher, the rest of the Vietnamese riff-raff in Jacobean garb — is distractingly bad. But the real problem is Jim Hooper's Duke.

True, the character's conduct does not stand up to modern psychological or political scrutiny. What sort of prince would dismiss himself as a friar and watch his deputy reactivate the draconian laws he has ignored? But this does

not mean that a man described as unusually temperate can be reduced to a narcissist who takes glee in playing barney games with his subjects. Shakespeare's Duke has two serious purposes: to expose Puritan hypocrisy and to show that mercy can coexist with justice. Here we feel the full gravity of neither.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE



The goalkeeper Peter Schmeichel, photographed by Henrik Saxgren, on show in *The Face of Denmark*

The only one of the four major National Galleries exhibitions at this year's Edinburgh Festival which is not in some way clearly related to the Scottish art scene is *The Face of Denmark* at the Scottish National Portrait Gallery. But even that is part of an exchange which will, later this year, take a show of portraiture in Scotland to Copenhagen. John Russell Taylor writes.

The show covers the history of portraiture in Denmark from 1751 to 1996. Most of the most famous artists, particularly from the early 19th-century "Golden Age" of Danish art, are represented: classical Thorvaldsen busts, comfortably provincial paintings by Eckersberg, Lundbye and Kobke. Later things fade away: such

VISUAL ART

late 19th/early 20th-century figures as Kroyer, Lundstrom and Willumsen are not essentially portrait painters, and the nearer contemporaries are on the whole as lacklustre as their British equivalents, without even an Auerbach or a Freud to liven things up.

Two of the more interesting shows elsewhere are concerned with Scots in China. At the Royal Museum there is *Precious Cargo*, a three-century history of Scottish involvement with the China trade. The story revolves mostly around the Pearl River delta, where many Scottish traders went to make their way in life. It is intriguing to find out how many of the important

figures were Scottish, but the real point of the exhibition is to show as many pieces of art as possible while pointing up the influence that Scottish patronage had on export art actually made in China, as well as the influence exerted in Scotland by such examples of Chinese art as found their way there.

The effect on local ceramics is particularly striking. The Edinburgh-born photographer John Thomson (1837-1921), known as "China Thomson", in fact spent only ten years of his life working in China. But the pictures he took then were the making of his professional reputation. *Captured Shadows*, the show at the National Library of Scotland, demonstrates him to have been, consciously or not, the founder of photo-journalism: the pictures of na-

tive peoples from the Straits settlements, never before exhibited, are straight ethnography, and the pictures of Angkor, which he was the first ever to photograph, have aesthetic as well as documentary value. But it is the photographs of Canton and Peking, and the scenes he captured during his great journey up the Yangtze that really grab the imagination.

• *The Face of Denmark*, in association with the Danish Cultural Institute, is at the Scottish National Portrait Gallery (0131-624 0222) until Aug 31

• *Precious Cargo*, sponsored by Cable & Wireless, is at the Royal Museum of Scotland (0131-225 7534) until Jan 4

• *Captured Shadows* is at the National Library of Scotland (0131-226 4531) until Sept 28

Three uneasy pieces blow hot and cold

BY giving her new company a name as exclamatory and presumptive as Tharp, the American choreographer Twyla Tharp immediately sets up the highest of expectations. Add to this 30 years in the choreography business and it is fair to assume that a master of making dances has something really special in store for us.

Well, not quite. What is really special about Tharp (sponsored by ScottishPower) is the dancers, not the dance. Tharp has moulded a company of 11 young performers whose verve and versatility are remarkable. For this talented ensemble she has made — with varying degrees of success — three disparate pieces.

Tharp has collaborated with Philip Glass before and the result, *In the Upper Room*, was one of the most popular ballets of the 1980s. Their latest collaboration, *Heroes*, trades on the energy of their previous work and seeks to find a new context for it. The score, described by the composer as a "symphonic ballet", is a variation on themes from David Bowie and Brian Eno's 1970s recording of the same name. But with its mawkish sentiments and cheap pretensions this is not vintage Glass.

Neither is it vintage Tharp. Although she obviously intends some kind of statement about the nature of heroes and heroism, it is too self-conscious and muddled to make its point. This being Tharp, however, there is much to admire: the struggle between the feisty individual and the selfish ensemble; the constant shift in emotional posture; the palpable unease that subverts the athletic confidence. But it is not enough to make sense of this community of heroes.

Community is also at the core of *Sweet Fields*, which is danced to early American religious choral music, from Shaker hymns to the 18th-century compositions of William Billings. But unlike *Heroes*, in which the community can be violent and unfriendly, *Sweet Fields* sings the beauty of a community united in benevolence by its religious fervour. Images of hard work, simple pleasures and even death are imbued with a radiant belief that whatever the travails of a God-fearing life, there is strength and comfort in knowing that you are never alone.

Tharp the Broadway babe is at work in the programme closer, *Ob*, a snazzy if creatively lazy bit of show dancing that pays homage to Highway 66, the almost mythic road that cuts across America from Chicago to California. Tharp herself travelled this road as a child when her family moved from Indiana to California, and autobiography permeates her new work, although you do not need to know her family to appreciate the types. Set to "bachelor pad music" from the 1940s and 1950s it illuminates the positivism that propelled thousands along the highway to the American dream.

Best of all, though, is the ongoing duet between Julie Stahl and Andrew Robinson (ex-London Contemporary Dance Theatre). They court like giggling teenagers, quarelling like petulant young lovers and make it up in a highly charged reconciliation. Familiar battle-of-the-sexes stuff from this choreographer, perhaps, but Stahl and Robinson are so jazzy-cool and so sexy-hot that suddenly their lovers' spat gets to the very heart of what Tharp is all about.

DEBRA CRAINE



Lisé Stevenson and Paul Brennan: twin successes of a slow, over-long production

A visit to the past and other countries

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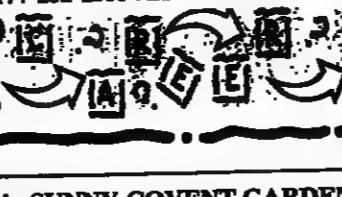
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How developers win consent

Christine Webb
talks to the experts
about the way to
approach projects
in sensitive areas

Rod Bryant disliked the new development being planned for his village, and said so. The developer, Crosby Homes, not only listened to his suggestions, but those of other villagers, too, then incorporated them in a redesign.

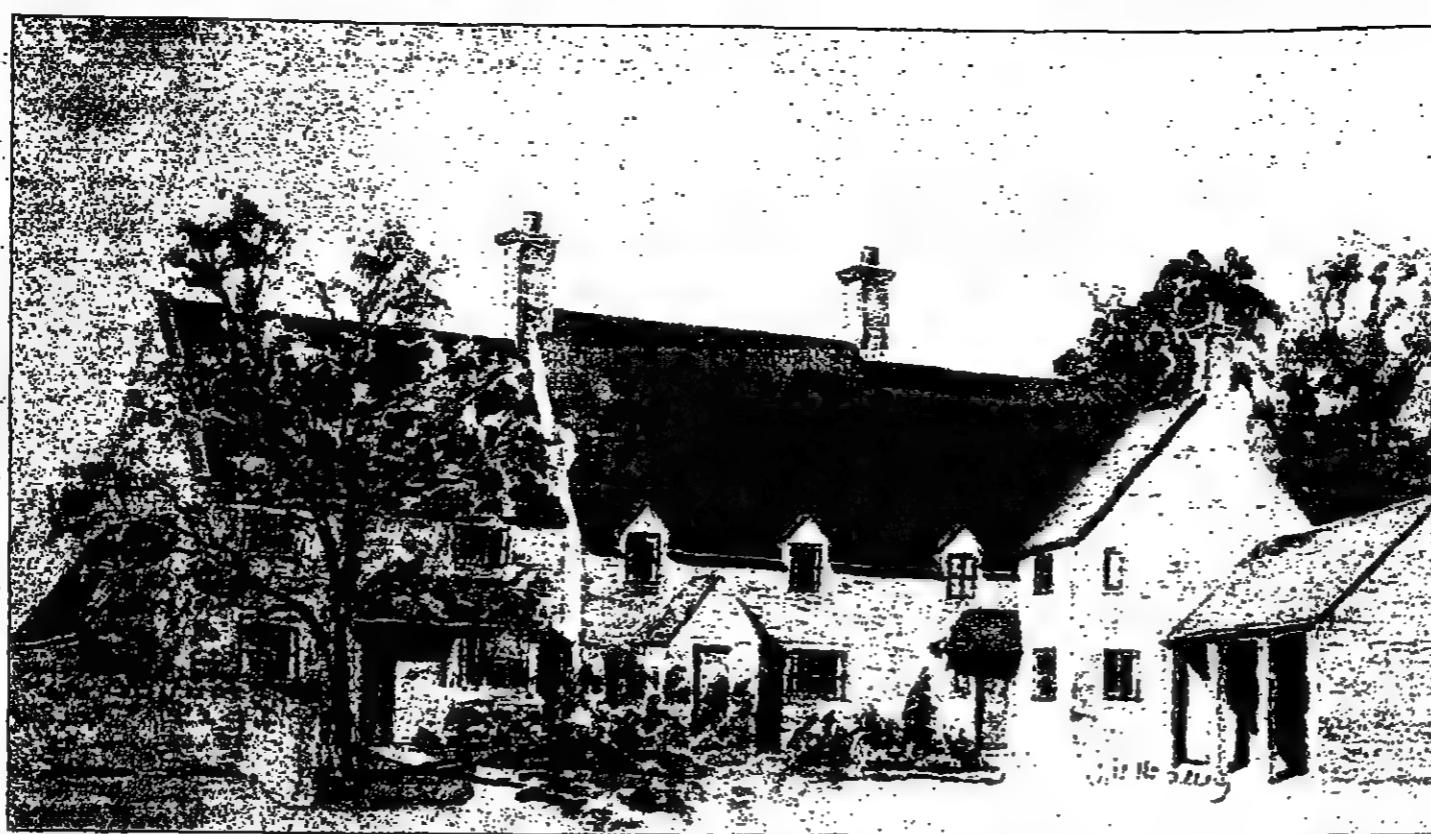
As a result there were no major objections to the plan, so it zipped through the local authority planning committee in six months flat, which would be quite an achievement in an average country town. But Mr Bryant lives in the historic Cotswold village of Broadway — just the kind of place our planning laws are best at protecting. And the development of 11 houses by Crosby is in the middle of the old village, leading off the much-photographed High Street.

It is difficult to get consent in historic towns and villages that developers go to great lengths to avoid provoking objections, which can prompt a planning refusal.

In Broadway, Crosby carried out its own public consultation exercise, inviting interested parties including local conservation groups and parish councillors such as Mr Bryant, to comment on the plan.

Mr Bryant, who runs a private hire car business, says: "We didn't like the first plan for 15 houses, which was too many. I also wanted reclaimed stone to be used to face the first house to front the high street so that it would blend in. Crosby was very helpful. It came back with a second set of plans which were brilliant, and they'd listened. Not many developers do."

The company held a second public meeting to present the new scheme. Andy Jinks, the land director of Crosby Homes Midlands, says: "The same people came along and said that if this went forward, they would support our planning application. We are now doing consultation exercises in other conservation areas; for example, at Edgbaston in Birmingham, where we are developing a site in an area of outstanding Edwardian houses. We held two public meetings in the local golf club. Listened



A proposal by Crosby Homes for Cotswold stone houses in the conservation village of Broadway in Hereford and Worcester

to what local residents said, and got planning consent."

Some property developers now specialise in "tricky" historic towns. Future Heritage of Bath — responsible for the brilliantly designed Seven Dials office and shop development in Bath praised by the Prince of Wales and John Gummer, the former Environment Secretary — advise developers and local authorities in the conception of projects.

They are finishing a regeneration scheme in the heart of Salisbury and have just gained planning consent for new houses on a half-acre site behind Bath's King's Circus.

Stephen Green, Future Heritage's managing director, says: "Circus Mews was a puzzle — rather like a Rubik's Cube — so planning consent took about 14 months to obtain. The local authority wanted to have its cake and eat it in that it wanted to keep the car parking on the half-acre site that is let to neighbouring residents, yet the development had to be in keeping.

"So we put the car spaces underground. There will be 11

new houses, two maisonettes and a small office building."

Future Heritage says it has never had to appeal against a planning refusal in all its 11 years. So what does Mr Green suggest is the best approach to gaining planning consent in an historic town?

"We take a consultational rather than a confrontational approach."

The problem comes when you try to achieve a degree of consistency; it's hard to know whether a planning officer in Cheltenham will think the same as the officer in, say, Bath or Chester because there are subjective elements."

What happens if there is disagreement between planners and the developers? If not, Mr McCarthy & Stone more than two years to gain planning permission for a sheltered housing scheme and new narrowboat facilities at the Kennet and Avon Canal, on a corner of Bathwick Street, Bath. The £3.5 million joint scheme with British Waterways drew a difference of opinion between the developer, which considered the scheme should fit in with the classical

architecture on Bathwick Hill, and the planners, who thought that it should echo the style of the canal-side cottages.

A scheme for 60 flats was turned down in 1995, partly because the planners felt it was an over-development and because of its scale. The developer talked to English Heritage, the Bath Preservation Trust and Bathwick Hill Residents Association, and a new scheme was drawn up, this time for 49 sheltered apartments: but the planning officers were not persuaded.

The scheme went to a planning appeal and the planning inspector allowed it, saying: "The development of this relatively large and conspicuous site would clearly alter the existing character and appearance of this part of the conservation area. However, there would be some enhancement of the townscape and the canal environment, and I believe that the proposals would not have a harmful effect on the character or appearance of the area."

Gary Day, director of the Planning Bureau, the developers' planning consultancy, says: "Our

experience in Bath was the most serious difficulty we've had. We did not expect an easy ride, but we had respected the sensitivity of the site."

Rob McLean, senior planner with Lyons & Sleeman & Horre, of Hartley Wintney, Hampshire, which specialises in historic centres and is so diverse it has expanded from 40 to 120 employees in the past three years, says: "If you have a job in an historic town, the softy, softy approach from the beginning and seeing as many people as you can before you apply is the way to go. If you don't do that, it takes six months longer."

"These days, there are more groups with an interest in new residential development. The longer one goes on, the more expertise these groups build up. So it's important that they are party to your proposals. You need all the competing groups pulling in the right direction."

• Prices at Crosby Homes' development range from £160,000 to £335,000. Agents: Knight Frank (01865 790077 and 01789 797759); McCarthy & Stone (0800 919132).

Put your best sq ft forward

If the bedroom is the best room in your home, that is what buyers should see first, says Heather Grant

The first five minutes in which a prospective buyer views your house are probably the most critical. The initial "feel" of a property is what instinctively makes someone attracted or otherwise, and once they have made a decision, they are unlikely to change.

If you don't capture somebody's interest quickly, they are probably not going to buy that house, so it is important that you immediately point out the benefits," advises Marc Goldberg of Hamptons International. "Less attractive parts of the house or things that are not necessarily features should come later."

So plan the route of your guided tour in advance. Do not show under stair cupboards and larder units just because you walk past them first; head straight for the most impressive room. If the garden is the main draw, show the rear reception room that looks on to it.

The house or flat should be clean and neat, to give an impression of space, a major selling point. It may be a bore to have to tidy up before each appointment, but showing your property at its best is an essential part of marketing. Even the largest of living rooms can look cramped if cluttered.

Rob McLennan, senior planner with Lyons & Sleeman & Horre, of Hartley Wintney, Hampshire, which specialises in historic centres and is so diverse it has expanded from 40 to 120 employees in the past three years, says: "If you have a job in an historic town, the softy, softy approach from the beginning and seeing as many people as you can before you apply is the way to go. If you don't do that, it takes six months longer."

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Miss Wade suggests approaching people on a personal level to make them feel relaxed. "It is," she says, "best to let people just wander about, and to come up with a bit of advice and helpful hints or to answer a few questions when you are asked."

Another useful tip is not to play music if you live in a quiet area that way, you enhance the peacefulness.

Mr Goldberg advises against asking too many financial questions. He says: "Such questions are more easily asked by a middleman." Above all, he adds, do not dwell on any negative factors, especially in the first five minutes. "If someone has had trouble parking, the worst thing you can do is start talking about it," he says. "Instead, say something like, 'Come inside; we can talk about the parking later,' and just sweep over that issue. Once inside, show them the lovely fireplace and the south-facing garden."

"When you have someone's interest, they are already trying to compromise on the problems."

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GOLF

Parnevnik happy to be second

By JOHN HOPKINS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT

JESPER PARNEVNIK, a nice man who has his priorities neatly in order, seems destined to go through life just missing the big prizes. Five times this year in tournaments in the United States and Britain, the 32-year-old Swede has been runner-up. Now, a place in the Ryder Cup team seems likely to be denied him.

Although he eats volcano dust and jumps into icy lakes as a self-inflicted punishment for playing badly, he does not rival Mac O'Grady for sheer daftness or, as P. G. Wodehouse might have said, "at presenting every outward appearance of a man who is engagingly dotty, who in some departments of the human physiology and physiognomy might be considered to be not quite all there".

O'Grady took 17 attempts at the qualifying school before he won his card. He lived in a cardboard box in a garage for a year. At a recent tournament, he played the first round hitting his woods right-handed and his irons left-handed. O'Grady once said: "I want to climb into a volcano and be at one with the lava." O'Grady talks in sentences that are almost impossible to under-

stand — in part because they last for five minutes.

Parnevnik takes regulation professional speak. Phrases such as "I played good", "I took driver", "I putted great" spring easily from his lips. More and more these days, he talks about continually finishing second — most recently in the Open — and what he thinks will happen about the Europe Ryder Cup team.

"A lot of players say that winning is everything," Parnevnik said as he prepared for the US PGA Championship at the Winged Foot club, New York. "I think that sends the wrong message, especially to kids, because that takes the whole idea of the game away. I mean, if winning is everything, 95 per cent of the field don't even have to keep on Sunday. They can stay in bed."

"To me, just to have been there is worth it, just to have had the chance to win the Open is amazing. You have to keep everything in perspective. I play because I love playing the game. I really enjoy being there and having a chance."

These are the words of a contented man, one who appears to be less tortured than



Parnevnik, twice runner-up in the Open, now faces Ryder Cup disappointment

many golfers. In this case, Parnevnik may be better suited than most to deal with the rebuff he is likely to receive when Severiano Ballesteros makes his two selections for next month's Europe Ryder Cup team.

"You know Seve's going to pick Olly [José María Olazábal]," Nick Faldo said. "so that leaves me and Jesper. I wouldn't like to miss out. I've done ten straight Ryder Cups and I want to do 11, to set another record. I have had a second, third and fourth in three European events this

year and I won in Los Angeles. I would have thought, on paper, that my credentials are pretty good."

Better than Parnevnik's by far, although the Swede lies seventh on the United States money list, "Today, when golf is a worldwide game — and soon we might be having a world tour — it is tough with the selection system we have now," Parnevnik said.

"I would like the system they have in any other sports. If it's soccer, ice hockey or baseball, they pick the best players at that time, whoever

is playing best, when the tournament comes round."

Yet such a system is not in place. Instead, it looks as though Ballesteros will have to decide between Faldo and Parnevnik when he announces his team on September 1. His reasoning will be that if the Ryder Cup hangs on one match and the player representing Europe is either Faldo or Parnevnik, then he will go for Faldo, who has won six major championships, rather than Parnevnik, who has won none. Once again, Parnevnik will have second.

BY EDWARD GORMAN, SAILING CORRESPONDENT

THE Champagne Mumum Admiral's Cup was coming to a tense conclusion in Plymouth last night with Italy fighting off a late charge by the unfancied Australians in their attempt to retain the title that they snatched from the United States in the Fastnet Race two years ago.

A sacrifice in on the fleet early last night, as the leading big boats headed towards The Lizard and an overnight finish at Plymouth, showed the Italians holding a lead of fewer than three points — equivalent to one Fastnet place — over the resurgent Australians.

For much of the day, the top of the table was being disputed by Italy, the United States and Germany, but a gain of four places from fourth to first by Colin Beashel in the Australian ILC 40, CNet, propelled Australia into contention. The Americans have suffered once again in the Fastnet, having slipped from first overall to third at the beginning of the final route.

Italy have held the lead in the championship since the opening stage of the Fastnet on Saturday, with the big boat, Madina, skippered by Francesco de Angelis, ahead in her class and the ILC 40, Bruva Q8, skippered by Enrico Chieffi, leading in her fleet until Beashel pushed her back into

second place yesterday. The Mumum 36, Breeze, skippered by Tommaso Chieffi, has been the weakest of the three.

For the Great Britain team, the latter stages of the race have witnessed a frustrating pattern, with the two bigger boats both holding fourth in class or, worse. This has consigned the team to fifth place overall, with only the hapless New Zealanders and Scandinavians behind them.

The success story so far, however, has been the Mumum 36, Brudamur, helmed by John Merricks, which dominated her class virtually from the start of the Fastnet and was on course for a class win.

While the Admiral's Cup fleet was playing out the last moves in the nine-race series, the fastest monohull among the total of 247 boats taking part in the Fastnet Race were crossing the finish line off the breakwater in Plymouth Harbour. Line honours went to Ross Field at the wheel of the Frisian 30, Banque Internationale d' Luxembourg, which had earlier been first round the Fastnet Rock.

Field held off Ludde Ingman's Nicrotete in a close match race back to the Scillies, when the two huge sloops were never more than a couple of minutes apart before crossing the line ten minutes ahead of him, just before 8am. Among the other

early finishers was Hasso Platner's IMS maxi, Morning Glory, which was third on the water with its mast intact, and Yves Parlier's Vendee boat, Aquitaine Innovations, which was sixteenth on the water, with the renowned French yachtsman, Eric Tabary, among her crew.

The real interest, however, was in the performance of the new Whitbread 60 fleet, for which the Fastnet was the first and last test of boat-for-boat speed for the crews before the round-the-world race starts on September 21. On this evidence, an exciting and close-fought contest is in store, with as many as six boats showing the potential to win.

After 605 miles of racing, which saw light air upwind and some brisk reaching in up to 20 knots, the first five boats — all Bruce Farr designs — finished within 14 minutes of each other. First was Grant Dalton's *Merit Cup*, with Chris Dickson's *Toshiba* second two minutes later, followed by Swedish *Match*, skippered by Gunnar Kraatz, a further three minutes back and then Britain's Lawrence Smith in *Silk Cut*, a total of ten minutes behind Dalton. Fifth was George Collins's *Chessie Racing*. There was then a gap of 24 minutes to Paul Cayard, in *EF Longue*, who seemed the most dismasted of the top six.

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THE LEADING 100 ENTRIES IN THE TIMES INTERACTIVE TEAM CRICKET

Pos	Team (player's name)	Pts	Pos	Team (player's name)	Pts	Pos	Team (player's name)	Pts	Pos	Team (player's name)	Pts
1	M J S 1 (M Square)	21476	2	Colombe Bats (D Blackburn)	20007	3	Retirement Hero's (M Pulteney)	20001	4	M W B B I C (R McKindie)	20011
2	Wansford House 3 (P O'Brien)	21408	27	Friday Night XI (G Gruchley)	20577	5	Fantasy Formula (G Gruchley)	19973	6	D J S 2 (D Fanion)	19973
3	Now And Go Kap (N Jones)	21328	28	Brutal Team (Hewitt)	20571	7	No More Friday (O J Ellis)	19971	8	Off 2 A Good Start (Sawyer)	19971
4	Orchid M & O (N Jones)	21329	29	North West (P Johnson)	20570	9	North West (P Johnson)	19949	10	North West (P Johnson)	19949
5	Sam's (Sam's Johnson)	21344	30	The Man 5 (G Sampson)	20560	11	Kent's Best (J George)	19948	12	Barney Boys (E Howes)	19948
6	Portus (W Clarke)	21137	31	Diamond White (R White)	20558	13	Rose Rose Rose (P Rose)	19947	14	The Sect Team (J Swann)	19945
7	Dave's Dependables (D Tatton)	21110	32	Sparks Thorne Elsie (E Webb)	20545	15	Photofish (P Short)	19943	16	Alles Angels (A Wood)	19942
8	Fantasy Formula 2 (G Gruchley)	21037	33	Paulines Stars (M P Howell)	20517	17	S & S 3 (In The Press (Vern))	19912	18	Three G's Team (P Ardenstein)	19912
9	Kids' Corvets 4 (N Kelly)	21033	34	Old Waggoners (T J Hartman)	20508	19	Totally (A Ardenstein)	19911	20	Friday Night XI (E Hartman)	19911
10	The Team Of Crows (N Kelly)	21029	21	Team Of Loco (P Jones)	20507	21	Over The Bonfire (P Johnson)	19909	22	Three G's Team (P Ardenstein)	19909
11	Dinner Diners (Steve D Shepherd)	20867	23	Wendy's Warriors (G Miller)	20446	24	The Flowerpot Men (J Stockton)	19843	25	Metvin Meltdowns (A B Wray)	19843
12	Doves Doves (D Tatton)	20844	26	Injury Free XI (J Hunt)	20443	27	Jennybake C C (AD Cuthrofts)	19842	28	Woodys' Wonders (DA Wood)	19842
13	Wells Fargo (B Howes)	20808	29	J W C 256 (J Swann)	20438	29	Three 10 X (A Ardenstein)	19841	30	Three 10 X (A Ardenstein)	19841
14	Ace All Rounders (A Easell)	20807	30	Hustle Clash Hustle (J Jastrow)	20418	31	Carry On (Marchant)	19840	32	Eds Release (S Lomber)	19840
15	Rob's Rovers (A Anderson)	20807	31	4 In Love (John)	20407	33	Eddie Waco (A Luckham)	19839	34	Bertholino's (A Bortholomeo)	19839
16	Leather & Laces (A Anderson)	20807	32	Wet & Wild (P Jones)	20407	35	Holyholics (M Ward)	19838	36	Friday 3 (N Ward)	19838
17	Fantasy Formula 3 (G Gruchley)	20807	33	Sam's Bathers (S Moon)	20367	37	Police Galore (P Fenton)	19837	38	Adidas Coming Home (M Stewart)	19836
18	Bacardi Boys (M Woodley)	20803	34	Parfay Formbie (G Gruchley)	20367	39	Thunder Burmese (Mas DC Bates)	19835	40	South London (A Ardenstein)	19835
19	All Rounders XI (N Parker)	20803	35	Three 10 X (J Swann)	20367	41	South London (A Ardenstein)	19834	42	South London (A Ardenstein)	19834
20	The Runnits (D Tatton)	20785	36	J W C 256 (J Swann)	20367	43	Tory Boys (G Jefferies)	19833	44	South London (A Ardenstein)	19833
21	Team Sports (Steve D Shepherd)	20785	37	2 Tezzy 2 (B Gaze)	20307	45	Suckrocks Park (C White)	19832	46	South London (A Ardenstein)	19832
22	Wet & Wild (A Mistry)	20785	38	Hunters (A Prazer)	20305	47	Kemfazza Bowler (D Finley)	19831	48	Howard's Howlers (P Howes)	19831
23	All Round Alley (W Burnell)	20785	39	Daves Demons (D Teggio)	20305	49	Howard's Howlers (P Howes)	19830	50	The Nafford Womans (J Stocker)	19830
24	The Band Played On (M Read)	20785	40	Legomaniacs (C Hume)	20297	51	Legomaniacs (C Hume)	19830	52	Legomaniacs (C Hume)	19830



IN ASSOCIATION WITH



INTERACTIVE TEAM CRICKET SCOREBOARD

Player (no)	Runs	Wickets	CSN	Bonus	Weekly	Overall	Player (no)	Runs	Wickets	CSN	Bonus	Weekly	Overall	Player (no)	Runs	Wickets	CSN	Bonus	Weekly	Overall
1	8	0	0	0	0	0	2	10	0	0	0	0	0	3	10	0	0	0	0	0
4	10	0	0	0	0	0	5	11	0	0	0	0	0	6	11	0	0	0	0	0
9	11	0	0	0	0	0	10	12	0	0	0	0	0	11	12	0	0	0	0	0
14	12	0	0	0	0	0	15	13	0	0	0	0	0	16	13	0	0	0	0	0
19	13	0	0	0	0	0	20	14	0											

CRICKET

Jayasuriya continues dominance of India

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

SANATH JAYASURIYA continued his magnificent form, scoring a scintillating 199, while Aravinda de Silva stroked his sixth century in successive Test innings on home soil as Sri Lanka made India toil in Colombo yesterday.

Sri Lanka, who were trailing by 43 runs after the first innings of the second Test, made 415 for seven in their second innings before declaring and leaving India a victory target of 373, which was reduced by 49 as their openers, Ajay Jadeja and Navjot Sidhu, made good use of the 13 overs Sri Lanka bowled in the final session of the fourth day.

Jayasuriya followed his 340 in the first Test with another monumental effort, while De Silva added another 120 runs to the 146 he scored in the first innings. The toothless India attack was treated with scant respect by this pair, who put on 218 for the third wicket at the rate of a run a minute as Sri Lanka hurtled towards a declaration.

Jayasuriya hit 21 fours and sixes from 226 balls, missing his double century by one run when he was bowled by Abey Kuruvila trying for yet another boundary. The left-hander, playing his eighth Test in 1997, became the first batsman this year to pass

SCOREBOARD

SRI LANKA: First Innings 202 (P A de Silva 146; D Mithun 4 for 78). Second Innings

199 (M S Jayasuriya c Aravinda de Silva 199; P A de Silva c and b Mithun 122; A Ranasinghe run out 1; T S Kaluarachana run out 1; D R Jayawardene c and b Mithun 1; W P U C Vass not out 5; Extras 15; lb 4, w 1, ob 10) 415

Total (7 wkt dec) 415

Fall of Wickets: 1-65, 2-146, 3-203

4-208, 5-214, 6-214, 7-214, 8-214

9-214, 10-214, 11-214, 12-214

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Medieval monks, multitudes of mammaries

Brother Eluric was having trouble with "unworthy thoughts". Later in the evening I fully expected to run into similar trouble myself, but more of *Breasts anon*. For the moment, it was time to concentrate on the goings-on in medieval Shrewsbury. Habits on, moustaches shaved... it was time for *Cadfael* (ITV).

Where brother Eluric was still having trouble with unworthy thoughts, Brother Cadfael, who before he became a man of the cloth was a man of the world so known about such things, tried to console him. "Brother, you use extravagant terms for feelings that are wholly human and natural." But Eluric would not be cheered. He had gazed upon Mistress Perle's smooch and was much taken with it. "Hard though I struggle, I can think of nothing else."

To be fair to the tortured Eluric, Mistress Perle's charms did not

stop at a splendid smooch. She was young, blonde, rich and recently widowed, which even in the 12th century was a fairly winning combination. As a result she was being vigorously pursued by most of the single men of Shropshire, although they might have shown a little less vigour had they known that she — with the help of Cadfael's heretical preparation — had given her dying husband a little help along the way.

Consumed with guilt, she gifted the matrimonial home to the abbey in exchange for a single white rose to be cut and delivered on the first of July. As fate would have it, it was Eluric, who as one of Cadfael's ever-changing retinue of young undergardeners must have known he'd better make it in to the second competition, break who got the cutting and delivery job. Sure enough, within minutes, Eluric was found dead by his lady's rose bush.

Had he been around 400 years later, Abbot Radulfus might have begun: "Alas, poor Eluric, I knew him well..." But this was something, so he didn't. "From love to despair," he observed, "it is but a short step further to the most unhappy of temptations." It took me a couple of seconds to work out he was talking about suicide.

By the time I caught up, Cadfael had moved on again. There was no rain on Eluric's habit and no blood on his hands. You don't mean...? Cadfael most certainly did. And here was a perfect imprint of the murderer's medieval boot: "A little warm wax, a steady hand and we have him by the heel."

Derek Jacobi is one of the few actors in the world who can get away with lines like that. Others are less fortunate, particularly those whose job it is to deliver one line of cod-medieval dialogue and then fade

REVIEW



Matthew Bond

into the grubby background again. "Cousin Judith — what is your opinion of this new wool?" looked to be a particular stinker until we discovered that its deliverer was actually the murderer. Served him right, then.

What Jacobi has realised and others have not is that a) period dialogue is not always in verse and b) this is television not Stratford-upon-Avon. Less is more and in

one or two cases it is an awful lot less that is required. Mind you, it's not all the actors' fault if they've got confused. The series does have a curiously theatrical style to it, where the rather contrived medieval bustle stops while the principal actors deliver their lines and then starts again when they have finished.

Still, it's different, ambitious and Jacobi is in it — which makes three big pluses. If they could just make Hungary look a bit more like the Shropshire I know and love, it could be very good indeed.

If they could have just made breasts look a little less like... well, breasts, I might have enjoyed Meema Spadola's film, *Breasts* (Channel 4), a bit more. Unworthy thoughts, I quickly realised, were not going to be a problem after Spadola had persuaded 22 New York women to take their tops off and talk serious tits. Instead, the prevailing sense

was one of exclusion, akin to the feeling that every man has experienced when told that the apparently fascinating conversation that stopped the second he arrived was "girls' talk". This, I suspect, was girls' television and, taking wild guess, quite good girls' television at that, hampered only slightly by the fact that it was also American.

A far less embarrassing time was to be spent in the company of David Attenborough, who for one night only appeared to have had borrowed the *J'accuse* format for *Wildlife on One* (BBC1). Piranha — pah! Bunch of softies, half of them are vegetarians, others are cowardly parasites who live by taking cowardly chunks out of other fishes' tails.

It's only the red-bellied variety you have to worry about, and then only if you're a great white eger chick without two brain cells to rub together. But that's gone down well on the set of the new James Bond film.

BBC1	
6.00am Business Breakfast (55112)	
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (1) (07071)	
9.00 Breakfast News Extra (1) (522488)	
9.20 Ready, Steady, Cook (1) (537805)	
9.50 Esther: The changing role of grandparents (1) (522415)	
10.20 Put it to the Test (523145)	
10.45 Caron Cooper's Cooking with Confidence (212110)	
11.00 News (1) and weather (207961)	
11.05 Due South (1) (413782)	
11.50 Good Neighbours (522443)	
12.00 News (1) (463286)	
12.05pm Wipeouts (1) (572665)	
12.35 Neighbours (1) (123435)	
1.00 News (1) and weather (73058)	
1.30 Regional News (5816752)	
1.40 Columbus: Candidate for Crime (1973)	
The murder of an election campaign manager (1) (412416)	
3.10 Gulliver (1) (194464)	
4.00 Poppy (202139) 4.10 The Thunderlizards (201823) 4.20 Royal TV with Tony Hart (2509861) 4.45 Prince of Atlantis (997400) 5.00 Newsround. Saving homeless dogs living on India's streets from certain death (1) (262148) 5.10 Bright Sparks. A 16-year-old car designer (572394)	
5.35 Neighbours (1) (417597)	
6.00 News (1) and weather (936)	
6.30 Regional News (416)	
7.00 Big Break Stars of the Future. Jim Davidson puts sapling sewage smokers through their shots (1) (2384)	
7.30 TW Time Machine. The remarkable success of the "Stamper Jumper" (1) (400)	
8.00 The National Lottery Live. Carol Smiley welcomes Michael Jackson's support group Human Nature (1) (234085)	
8.15 Selection Box: Bits of a Festival. Celebrities pick their favourite moments from the Essex girl comedy (1) (708868)	
8.30 Points of View. Presented by Anne Robinson (1) (164324)	
9.00 News (1) and weather (2329)	
9.29 National Lottery Update (423880)	
9.30 Men Behaving Badly: Rich and Fat. The leads poke yet more fun at each other as Gary's secret stash of £33,000 is revealed (1) (53878)	
10.00 Inside Story: Dial V for Vengeance. Professionals dedicated to exacting revenge on their clients' good-for-nothing acquaintances outline a range of services, from quick pranks to more serious plots. (1) (612400)	
10.45 Match of the Day. Gary Lineker introduces highlights of Manchester United v Southampton. Plus all the goals and talking-points from tonight's other games in the top flight (1) (2229708)	
12.00 Blood, Tess (1991) Hayley Vernon, Michelle Johnson and Jason London star in this vampire thriller about a family of bloodsuckers whose corrupt and criminal acts gain them many enemies. Directed by Jim McBride (1) (72725)	
1.30am Weather (5027171)	
VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCodes The numbers next to each programme entry indicate Video PlusCodes, numbers which allow you to programme your video recorder instantly with a VideoPlus+™ handset. Tap in the Video PlusCode for the programme you wish to record. VideoPlus+™, PlusCode™ and Video Programmes are trademarks of Gemstar Development Ltd.	

BBC2	
8.00pm Open University: Paris and the Renaissance (2540465) 8.25 Ticket to Fly (2340829) 8.30 Regressing to Quality (1) (5338874)	
9.15 See Hear Breakfast News (T and signing) (5046555)	
10.20 Ready, Steady, Cook (1) (537805)	
10.50 Esther: The changing role of grandparents (1) (522415)	
10.20 Put it to the Test (523145)	
10.45 Caron Cooper's Cooking with Confidence (212110)	
11.00 News (1) and weather (207961)	
11.05 Due South (1) (413782)	
11.50 Good Neighbours (522443)	
12.00 News (1) (463286)	
12.05pm Wipeouts (1) (572665)	
12.35 Neighbours (1) (123435)	
1.00 News (1) and weather (73058)	
1.30 Regional News (5816752)	
1.40 Columbus: Candidate for Crime (1973)	
The murder of an election campaign manager (1) (412416)	
3.10 Gulliver (1) (194464)	
4.00 Poppy (202139) 4.10 The Thunderlizards (201823) 4.20 Royal TV with Tony Hart (2509861) 4.45 Prince of Atlantis (997400) 5.00 Newsround. Saving homeless dogs living on India's streets from certain death (1) (262148) 5.10 Bright Sparks. A 16-year-old car designer (572394)	
5.35 Neighbours (1) (417597)	
6.00 News (1) and weather (936)	
6.30 Regional News (416)	
7.00 Big Break Stars of the Future. Jim Davidson puts sapling sewage smokers through their shots (1) (2384)	
7.30 TW Time Machine. The remarkable success of the "Stamper Jumper" (1) (400)	
8.00 The National Lottery Live. Carol Smiley welcomes Michael Jackson's support group Human Nature (1) (234085)	
8.15 Selection Box: Bits of a Festival. Celebrities pick their favourite moments from the Essex girl comedy (1) (708868)	
8.30 Points of View. Presented by Anne Robinson (1) (164324)	
9.00 News (1) and weather (2329)	
9.29 National Lottery Update (423880)	
9.30 Men Behaving Badly: Rich and Fat. The leads poke yet more fun at each other as Gary's secret stash of £33,000 is revealed (1) (53878)	
10.00 Inside Story: Dial V for Vengeance. Professionals dedicated to exacting revenge on their clients' good-for-nothing acquaintances outline a range of services, from quick pranks to more serious plots. (1) (612400)	
10.45 Match of the Day. Gary Lineker introduces highlights of Manchester United v Southampton. Plus all the goals and talking-points from tonight's other games in the top flight (1) (2229708)	
12.00 Blood, Tess (1991) Hayley Vernon, Michelle Johnson and Jason London star in this vampire thriller about a family of bloodsuckers whose corrupt and criminal acts gain them many enemies. Directed by Jim McBride (1) (72725)	
1.30am Weather (5027171)	
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HTV	
6.00am GMTV (7741503)	
9.25 Wif. Loss or Draw (1) (5229597)	
9.55 Judge Judy (1) (5150023)	
10.15 See Hear Breakfast News (T and signing) (5046555)	
10.20 Ready, Steady, Cook (1) (537805)	
10.50 Esther: The changing role of grandparents (1) (522415)	
10.20 Put it to the Test (523145)	
10.45 Caron Cooper's Cooking with Confidence (212110)	
11.00 News (1) and weather (207961)	
11.05 Due South (1) (413782)	
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1.30am Weather (5027171)	
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CENTRAL	
As HTV West except:	
10.30pm Film: Sky West and Crooked (51084145)	
12.55pm 1-25 A Country Practice (1021023)	
1.50-3.20 Film: Men About the House (1655584)	
5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (2657416)	
6.25-7.00 Central News (792507)	
12.45pm Film: The Castle of Fu Manchu (5940685)	
2.30pm Focus (6847567)	
3.15 The Chart Show (6811172)	
4.00 Central Jobfinder 97 (3062820)	
REVIEW	
As HTV West except:	
10.30pm Film: Sky West and Crooked (51084145)	
12.55pm Home and Away (8731304)	
1.50-3.20 Film: Men About the House (1655584)	
5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (2657416)	
6.25-7.00 Central News (792507)	
12.45pm Film: The Castle of Fu Manchu (5940685)	



GOLF 38

Parnevick destined to miss out on Ryder Cup

SPORT

WEDNESDAY AUGUST 13 1997

SAILING 38
Close finish illuminates Fastnet Race

Shameful scenes mar semi-final

Angry players shove cricket into darkness

BY ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

CHELMSFORD (Essex won toss; Essex with two wickets in hand, need six runs to beat Glamorgan)

AMID bad blood and even worse light, the first of the NatWest Trophy semi-finals was adjourned in chaos and confusion at 8.05pm last night. Essex were six runs short of their target, with 6.1 overs remaining, when the umpires were given no option but to take the players off in the middle of an over from Glamorgan's Waqar Younis.

A match in which ill-feeling was seldom far below the surface then brought disgraceful scenes, with two England players, Mark Ilott and Robert Croft, pushing each other as they argued over the merits of the situation. An inquiry into the circumstances is inevitable.

The entire game had been combustible, though much it was of compelling quality. Stuart Law often looks an angry young man, sometimes with justification. He has a grouse with the Australian selectors who decline to pick him and, yesterday, he had a spar with Darren Thomas for being careless enough to bowl him a beamer. Law summarily



Stuart Law: dashing

won the argument with Thomas to sweep Essex towards their second successive NatWest Trophy final and, soon, surely, he will win his point with the Australians.

Law struck 90 from only 73 balls at his adoring, perspiring second home of Chelmsford and, after that, it seemed, even the notably nervy chasers of Essex would make light of a target of 302. Not so. Despite a heroic half-century from Ronnie Irani, playing with a torn rib cartilage, they had declined to 296 for eight when

The Queenslander was incensed, and not a little pained. In swift succession he hurled down his bat and both gloves while offering Thomas the benefit of his opinions. Thomas waved a perfunctory apology but, having claimed in a newspaper preview that he looked forward to mixing it with Law, he did not look the picture of remorse.

Law took an age to compose himself but then treated Thomas to both barrels — venomous strokes accompanied by apparently vengeful words. When he holed out to long-off in the 24th over, he strode off pointing accusingly at another Glamorgan player who had evidently had something to say.

Nasser Hussain, granted a timely chance to display his leadership ability by a hamstring injury to Paul Prichard, opted to bowl first and must have been congratulating himself when Hugh Morris squirmed the tenth ball of the innings to Law at gully. Once the rain had cleared, though, so did the approach of the Welsh and the second wicket added 102 in 29 overs.

James, who heads the first-class managers to make hundreds without playing a memorable shot, simply working the ball into the gaps. His century here contained only five fours. Only time and opportunity will tell if his technique can thrive at higher level but he can hardly make a stronger claim.

Essex's outcries were below par, both Dale and Cottee being expensively dropped, and when Irani was forced off mid-way through his tenth over, the Welsh contingent burst into *Land of my Fathers*. They were still more euphoric when the last ten overs produced 82 runs, but it proved premature.

After 20 overs of the reply, Law and Darren Robinson, a positive but sensible partner, had rushed to 122. Other than a run-out chance, squandered by Shaw, Glamorgan did not sniff success until Law perished, aiming for a second straight six off Butcher.

When the estimable Watkin rallied from early punishment to dismiss Hussain and Robinson in consecutive overs, Essex wobbled. They have been here before, losing big games when it seemed easier to win, but Grayson, a thoroughly sound cricketer, joined Irani, who had been given a painful injection, in a calming stand of 60.

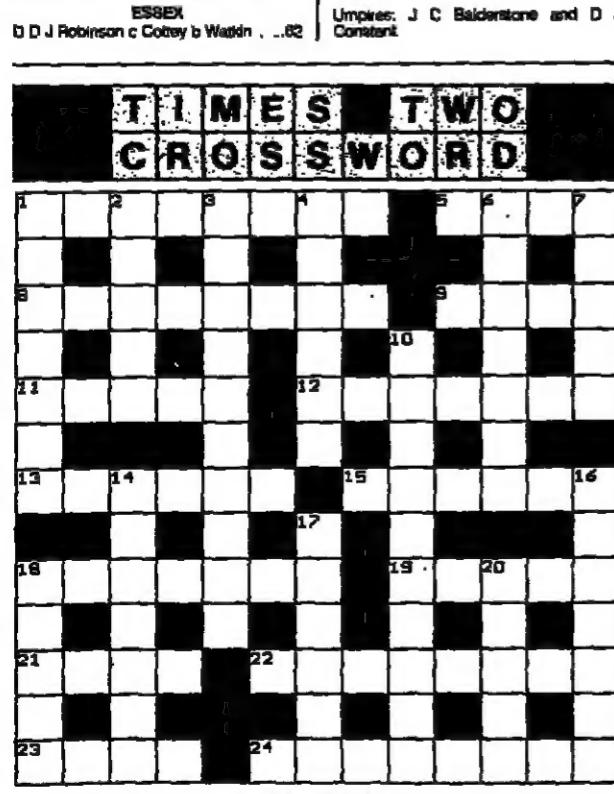
CHELMSFORD SCOREBOARD

Glamorgan		50
S G James c Watkin b Butcher	108	
H M Irani c Watkin b Watkin	6	
A Dale c Cowan b Grayson	26	
M P Maynard run out	26	
P A Cottee c Grayson b Watkin	56	
F D Cowan c Watkin b Thomas	17	
R Cowan lbw b Thomas	56	
G P Butcher not out	18	
F D Shaw run out	0	
S D Thomas c G Law b Cowan	11	
Extras (b 4, lb 6, w 6, nb 6)	25	
Essex (b 9, w 10, nb 6)	11	
Total (8 wkt, 80 overs)	296	
Waqar Younis (b 1, Watkin did not bat)	0	
FALL OF WICKETS	1-194, 2-194, 3-165, 4-261, 5-278, 6-281, 7-294, 8-301	
BOWLING	Watkin 12-2-50-1; Cowan 12-0-62-2; Irani 2-0-36-0; G Law 4-0-37-0; Dale 3-0-21-0; Grayson 9-51-2	
Umpires:	J C Balderton and D J Constance	

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No 1171

ACROSS

- 1 Protector (8)
- 5 Demonstrate (4)
- 8 Free French leader (2,6)
- 9 Courage stone particles (4)
- 11 Stand for painting (5)
- 12 Valueless material? (7)
- 13 Run-down; ignoble (6)
- 15 Assimilate; a summary (6)
- 18 Decide; determination (7)
- 19 Paperwork (colloq.) (5)
- 21 Prejudice (4)
- 22 Member of govt. clergy (8)
- 25 Depression (in knocked sense) (4)
- 26 Feeling gratitude (8)

SOLUTION TO NO 1170

ACROSS: 7.1170. 8. Hoopigan. 9. Murder. 10. Samuel. 11. Wine. 12. Capidity. 13. Decanter. 14. Bury. 18. Thomas. 21. Becket. 22. Autumnal. 23. Lear.

DOWN: 1. Figurine. 2. Doodle. 3. Short cut. 4. Boss. 5. Dimmed. 6. Café. 13. Parabola. 14. Turgenev. 16. Armour. 17. Buckle. 19. Hour. 20. Sink.

SOLUTION TO TIMES TWO CROSSWORD 1166

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ACROSS: 1. Rock. 3. Statuary. 8. Tibetan. 10. Super. 11. Concomitant. 13. Naschy. 15. Adhere. 17. Precious few. 20. Scoop. 21. Suzi. 22. Spectral. 23. Aged.

DOWN: 1. Reicent. 2. Cabin. 4. Tennis. 5. Toss and turn. 6. Amputee. 7. Yurt. 8. Trouble spot. 12. New World. 14. Suppose. 16. Miasma. 18. Fling. 19. As.

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ITC details, page 38
Jasavariya shines, page 41
Line and Length, page 41
Simon Barnes, page 42

Clubs united on issue of sin

David Hands, rugby correspondent, on radical plans for the new domestic season

posed competition regulations, then games in the Premiership first and second divisions will have ten-minute half-time intervals, home and away play-offs to determine promotion and relegation and the ten-minute sin-bin for persistent technical infringement. The intention, after a meeting last week between club directors and referees, is to punish the professional foul.

Still, the pace of change may yet be sufficient for the sin-bin to be in place by August 23, the first weekend of competition for England's leading 24 clubs. The feeling among refereeing officials is that its implementation would be relatively straightforward, but that, perhaps, referees could be given as much notice as possible.

If the Rugby Football Union (RFU) accepts the pro-

posed changes, we have talked to players, we have talked to the RFU and we see no reason why it should not be available to referees by the start of the Premiership."

At present, however, there is only a draft regulation that has gone to Nick Bunting, the RFU referees development officer, who is on holiday, and no meeting of the RFU management board is scheduled until August 23.

"We want to stop players who seek to prevent a try by killing the ball, or wrapping it up in the tackle, or by going offside," Donald Kerr, chairman of the English Rugby Partnership — the organisers of competition for the leading 24 clubs — said. "We have

listened to players, we have talked to the RFU and we see no reason why it should not be available to referees by the start of the Premiership."

Today is about taking the game on to its next stage, about giving it the resources to go forward into the next century," Steve Melville, the Allied Dunbar chief executive.

The new Premiership champions will receive £60,000 and the runners-up £30,000, but new regulations also allow disciplinary proceedings against clubs that avoid the proper channels when approaching players.

"There is no mistaking the enthusiasm, though, of club executives for the season that lies ahead. But the politics that have bedevilled the sport, they seek to present the English club game in the best possible light and Allied Dunbar, the insurance company,

will plough £12 million into the sport over the next three years.

"Today is about taking the game on to its next stage, about giving it the resources to go forward into the next century," Steve Melville, the Allied Dunbar chief executive.

The new Premiership

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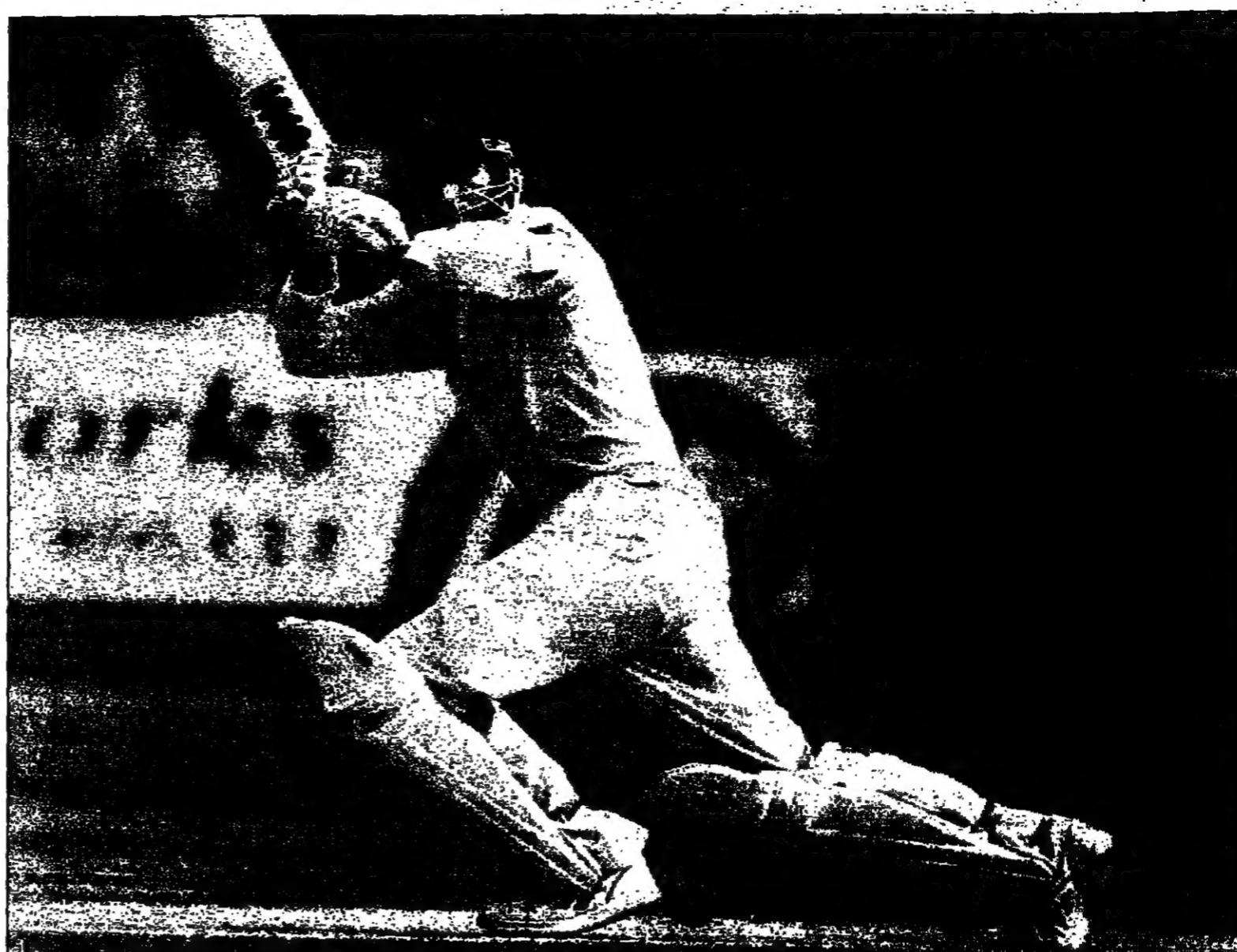
To avoid clashes of interest between club and country, clubs can postpone matches if they lose five or more players for international duty, but must give ten days' notice, which will create problems if national selectors delay the nomination of their squads.

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James, Glamorgan's century-maker, clips the ball to mid-wicket during his well-paced innings. Photograph: Laurence Griffiths / Allsport

Dalglish savours striking difference

BY OLIVER HOLT

FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

THEY told Kenny Dalglish that today was Alan Shearer's birthday and he shrugged his shoulders. It was suggested that maybe Dalglish would like to win Newcastle United's European Cup preliminary round match against Croatia Zagreb tonight for his stricken striker and he shot back a contemptuous stare. He was asked when Shearer might be fit again. "He won't be playing tomorrow night," he said.

The confirming obsession with the minutiae of Shearer's injury has already exhausted Dalglish's limited fund of patience as he tries to coax Newcastle and their supporters into life without the England striker for a large part of the season. Yesterday, at a press conference at the club's picturesque training ground on the outskirts of Durham,

he found the perfect escape route.

In the absence of Shearer and the recently-departed Les Ferdinand, the goalscoring burden has been placed at the unpredictable feet of Fausto Asprilla, the maverick Colombian who was widely assumed would be one of the first casualties of the Dalglish reign at St James' Park.

Instead, Asprilla has begun to show signs of finding the form that made him such a feared striker with Parma in Serie A and prompted Kevin Keegan to buy him towards the end of the 1995-96 season in a doomed attempt to clinch the FA Carling Premiership title.

He scored both Newcastle goals — one a thunderous volley after a clever header from Albert — in the 2-1 victory over Sheffield Wednesday on Saturday and Dalglish left his listeners in little doubt yesterday that he believes

Asprilla is a more than capable deputy for his mislamic No 9.

"If the preconception was that he was not my type of player," Dalglish said, "that is because you have been misinformed. I never had any preconceived ideas about the

probable teams

NEWCASTLE UNITED (3-1-1-1): S. Given — A. Patatas, P. Alber, S. Pearce, D. Batty, R. Lee, S. Watson, T. Kehinde, K. Giampaolo, J. D. Tomasson — F. Asprilla.

CROATIA ZAGREB (3-1-2-2): D. Ladic — M. Mihajlovic, J. J. Simic, S. Susic, S. Matic, K. Juricic, J. Kovacic, R. Pavacic, M. Vidic, I. Celicovic.

we, we would want him here. The funny thing about him is that he always looks shattered. Even if he has been on for five minutes and he is just walking around, he looks shattered.

He was getting the team picture done yesterday and he looked shattered. Then suddenly, he just bursts into action."

Dalglish admitted that Newcastle, who will revert to playing in the UEFA Cup if they lose the two-legged tie to the Croatians, who used to be called Dinamo Zagreb, "will either have to play very well or very lucky, or hopefully both", to progress into the Champions League.

Zagreb, who have the former Barrowman and Real Madrid midfield player, Robert Prosicki, in their ranks, have won the Croatian league for the past two seasons, last year by 21 points, and warmed up for the match tonight with a 6-2 thrashing of Varek in

Saturday. In the previous round, they beat Partizan Belgrade 5-1 on aggregate.

Their star striker, Igor Cvijanovic, said his team had been upset over claims that Dalglish had said he had never heard of Croatia Zagreb. "English teams are full of arrogant and cold people," he said. "They are not interested in anybody but themselves. They always think they are the greatest."

Dalglish, however, emphasised that he has the utmost respect for Newcastle's opponents, especially as his own record as a manager in Europe has been restricted to Blackburn Rovers' defeat by Helsingborgs and Newcastle's loss to AS Monaco last season.

"I have not had the same success in Europe as I did when I was a player," Dalglish said, "but this is not about me. It is about the players."

United prepare, page 40

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